



# Lwethersfield LIFE

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## Keeping to tradition

Folk artist decorates  
Easter Eggs in Ukrainian style  
*See story on page 17*

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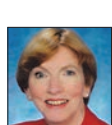


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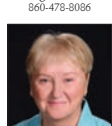
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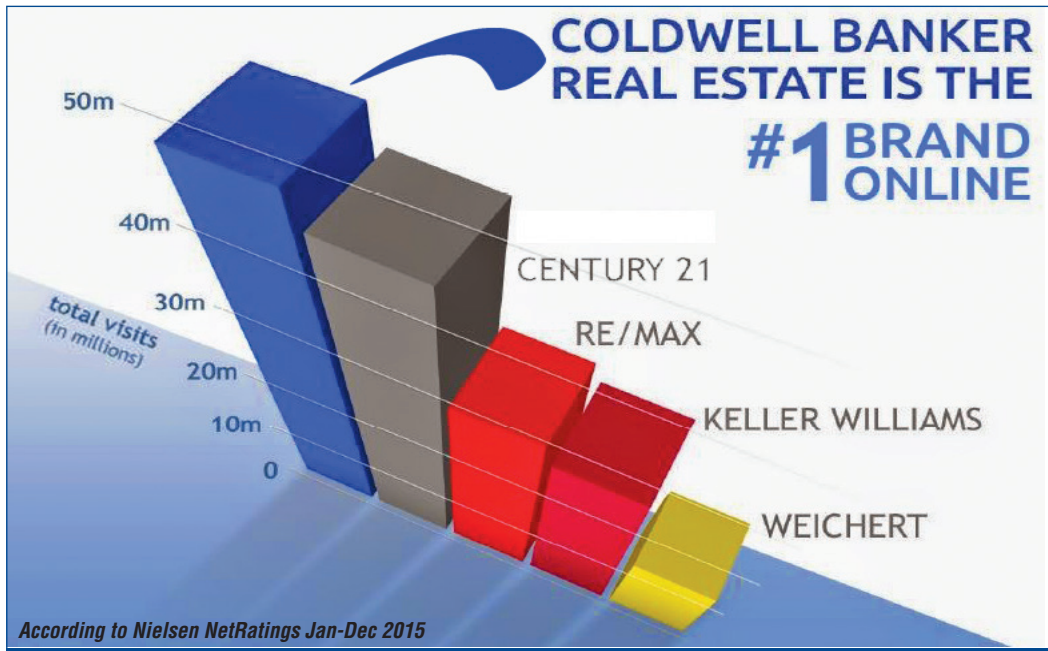
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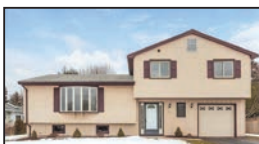
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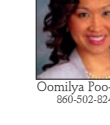
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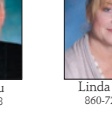
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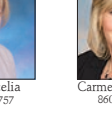
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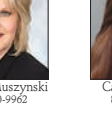
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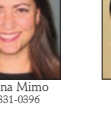
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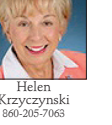
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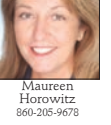
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# Wethersfield LIFE

**April 2016**

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## QUOTE OF NOTE:

“The kids love it. I have a student who says it’s the best thing he’s ever done.”

- *Caroline Fazzina*

See story page 15

## ON THE COVER

Tanya Osadca has a lifelong passion for painting Ukrainian Easter Eggs, famous for their intricate design.

Photo by Lisa Brisson  
See story page 17

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# Teaching the teachers

**Diane Adamson takes her skills from Wethersfield High to Rwanda**

**by Mark Jahne**  
*Editor*

**I**t's probably safe to say that most Americans know little about Rwanda except that it's a country in Africa. Diane Adamson went there in person to share her skills with fellow educators and came back with a lifetime of memories.

Adamson is employed at Wethersfield High School, where she teaches economics and psychology, both at the Advanced Placement level. Her entire career, nearly 30 years, has been spent in the local district.

"I did my student teaching here," she said.

She has been to Rwanda twice as part of a program that involves educators from the two countries visiting one another to share their skills and perspectives. It's organized by the University of Hartford and the Rwandan government.

Adamson said those two entities created a bond with one another because the university offers a focus on Holocaust studies through its Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, while Rwanda experienced genocide in the 1990s when the majority Hutu tribe slaughtered moderate Hutus and members of the minority Tutsi tribe during a bloody civil war.

That war left an estimated 800,000 to one million out



Neither Diane Adamson nor this mountain gorilla seem afraid of one another.



Rwandan teachers train under the guidance of volunteers from the United States.

courtesy photos



of a population of seven million dead. The United Nations and France had troops on the ground, but reportedly did little to intervene.

The university brought 40 Rwandan teachers who are experts in the areas of English language learners, educational methodology and conflict resolution to the Hartford area in 2014.

"That started the whole ball rolling. Now they do that training every August and every September in those three things," Adamson said.

She knew nothing about the program until she was "discovered" by Dr. Joseph Olzacki, director of the Rwanda Teacher Education Program at the university. At the time, he was substitute teaching in area schools looking for teachers to recruit for Rwandan visits.

He is proud that more than 700 Rwandan teachers have received this training since 2014.

"Their job is to go back and teach other teachers or other methods. We've effected change in over 21,000 children in Rwandan schools," Olzacki said.

He added that the American educators return home with a renewed sense of vigor and possibility. They find it exciting to share their knowl-

edge with peers in an emerging nation.

Olzacki said he quickly identified Adamson as one of the top teachers at Wethersfield High, adding that the school has a lot of highly impressive educators.

"Diane is such an absolute joy. Diane has extremely high expectations along with a passion for teaching," he said. "She comes with a unique understanding that there are different ways to teach every individual student."

Adamson spent three weeks in Rwanda last August.

"It's a program that becomes near and dear to your heart," she said.

A return trip was made the first two weeks of December. She is grateful to WHS and central office administration for allowing her to take the December voyage while local schools were in session. The university paid her way both times.

"We go over there and they get 200 to 300 educators and we have a two-to-three week training," Adamson explained.

It is a classic example of training the trainers. Those 200 or 300 take what they have learned and in turn teach it to other educators

throughout the country.

Adamson said the Rwandan teachers were so appreciative of their American visitors that they begged them not to leave. There is talk of growing the program.

"We're trying to expand. I would love to see somebody from Wethersfield always involved," Adamson said.

Rwandans have their own language, called Kinyarwanda. Many also speak French and, in recent years, English has become the

country's official language.

The country has come a long way since the civil war and genocide. Adamson said the capital city of Kigali has transformed from mud huts to modern buildings in a matter of six years.

"The building that is going on there is happening at a rapid pace," she said.

The city boasts of a wide range of restaurants and a vibrant nightlife, according to the official government website. The landlocked East



It's graduation time at the completion of the program.



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African nation is known as the Land of a Thousand Hills and its Volcanoes National Park is home to mountain gorillas and golden monkeys.

"Rwanda looks like Vermont on steroids," Adamson said.

Peace and stability have come to the land and Adamson said President Paul Kagame is given much of the credit for that. He received 93 percent of the popular vote in the last election in 2010.

"At the particular time we were there, they were having a referendum. They wanted their president to serve for a third term. The people speak very highly of him and very fondly of him," she said.

As in the United States, Rwandan law limits a president to two terms. The referendum passed and the law was changed to allow Kagame to serve beyond that; presidential terms in Rwanda run for seven years.

During their visit to the country, the American contingent stayed in hotels in Kigali and a town called Huye and had little time

## "Rwanda looks like Vermont on steroids."

Diane Adamson

off, but they did find a way to take a one-day safari and do some sight-seeing.

"One of the biggest tourist attractions are the mountain gorillas," she said.

Guides took them to see a gorilla family living in the wild and she was amazed and delighted to be able to sit as close as four feet from some of them while the animals simply went about their daily life. They have no fear of humans and are used to such tour groups.

"They couldn't care less that we were there," she said.

She watched with fascination as they groomed one another and gently tended to their babies.

Some of the gorillas curled up and took a nap.

During the safari, her vehicle turned a corner and came face to face with an elephant. She was awed at the size of the beast. The

elephant held its ground and the humans were forced to turn away for safety.

Weather was another attraction: 70 degrees by day and 60 at night. The food was primarily rice, potatoes and what she called a stringy kind of boiled meat.

"I got to meet a lot of nice people. I felt safe the whole time, walked every morning. People wanted to talk to you, wanted to practice their English," Adamson said.

She met many interesting people, ranging from ambassadors to visiting professors from Yale University. The trips opened her eyes to how people and cultures may differ.

One of the things that greatly impressed her is the effort being made to treat boys and girls equally as they grow up, with the hope that this will continue in adulthood.

"They really strive for gender equity, so all the children have their heads shaved through adolescence," she said.

Gender cannot be easily determined until the boys' voices begin to change. Her observation was that this approach seems to work well for the culture at large, citing as an example the fact that 70 percent of the members of Parliament are women.

"They have a lot more gender equity than we do. They do a lot of great things over there," Adamson said.

This was not her first overseas voyage. She recalled going on a WHS trip to Russia as a chaperone in the 1990s. The group stayed there for a month and was in country for May Day, the largest national holiday.

Adamson remembers being told that the May Day tradition was to consume three shots of vodka before breakfast. She was cajoled into doing it and quickly decided that she would never try such a thing again. **WL**



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# Zumba for a cause



Madres Latinas of Wethersfield sponsored a Zumba Dance Party fundraiser Feb. 20 at Hanmer School. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative prenatal initiative in the form of a raffle prize for a community baby shower.



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4:30 pm Commercial Real Estate    6:00 pm 401k plans for Every Size business  
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# Wethersfield-made soaps, candles and more

## Local couple launches new business

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

One quickly senses when looking through the product line from the Welles House Marketplace that the company's owners have a sense of humor.

In addition to the usual scents you would find from a company that makes candles, soaps and other natural products, such as lemon verberna and satsuma, you'll also find products with names like Gray, Black Tie and Monkey Farts.

The latter features a scent of fresh banana blended with sweet grapefruit, mandarin orange, kiwi, coconut cream, pink raspberries, strawberries and apples, in a soap that contains Shea butter, cocoa butter and mango butter.

"[Monkey Farts] has become a huge success. It was just so silly. We

thought 'We don't really have anything silly. I wonder how that would work.' We made five batches and sold them in like two months. We were very surprised," said Brendan Grimaldi.

He runs the company with his spouse Mike Jakubowski. This year they plan a seasonal line around the concept, such as Cupid's Farts with a peppermint scent.

They chose the company name after their home, which was built in 1774 and was originally owned by Thomas Welles.

"The Welles House Marketplace specializes in handmade natural products made with the highest quality of ingredients. We strive to produce a product with outstanding quality while remaining affordable," Jakubowski said.

The couple, who have been married for two years, got started on the project this past winter.

"We always talked about how we'd love to do something fun on the side and see where it goes. What it was, we never really had an idea. We definitely wanted it to be something fun and unique," said Grimaldi, a Rocky Hill High School graduate who works full time as a graphic designer for Prudential Retirement.

"We kind of had an itch to be a little crafty and do something far out of what we had normally done. When you do something all day every day – I do graphic design – it's not necessarily what I want to do when I get home. We wanted to do something different that's not in our everyday lives, something we could create and something that there's

actually a market for," he added.

"I've always been a big fragrance person. I've always had 10 colognes on my counter. Any time we got a candle, we always have lively debates on which one we're going to get.

"Small businesses and hand-made is almost becoming a movement. Everybody is starting to look for something more artisan, something that really is small batch. Some of the candles and soap I make, I might make three at a time. I might have a specific fragrance with a specific wax in these jars. We thought, 'Why not us? Let's give it a shot.'"

Neither had any experience in making such products when they first started buying supplies and experimenting with a few recipes last year.

"[We wanted] just to see if we could actually do it. Were we thinking we were capable of something totally crazy? We tested it out at home; we burned some candles; we used some soaps; we gave them to our moms. We asked them, 'How does this smell? Does it work?' After we tested it out, we had a little confidence," Grimaldi said.

"We decided we would start this side business together. We started coming up with so many ideas of what we could do, we had to start

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The product line from the Welles House Marketplace includes soaps, candles, lotions and more.



paring down that list to start so we wouldn't get too crazy, and we started creating the products."

They sell their products – bar

and liquid soaps, lip balms, candles, wax melts, lotions and body sprays – through their website, on Etsy and at the Old Wethersfield Country Store.

"They're in a great price range and they're really great grab-and-go gifts. The candles are great if you're having company over and want to throw

something nice in the bathroom just because the packaging is beautiful, too," said Megan Kirk, co-owner, Old Wethersfield Country Store.



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"We like carrying them because they're local."

She added the soaps with amusing names are especially big sellers.

"Customers really like the funny soaps," she said. "People like them a lot."

Jakubowski, who is from East Granby and works as a product analyst for Travelers, said that he and Grimaldi divide some responsibilities and work together on others.

"We share some of the duties, such as ordering supplies, brainstorming ideas, running our Etsy

into 2016, we have been tweaking our lineup to bring cohesion amongst the different products we carry as we learn more about our consumers and their preferences."

Even in their short life as a company, there have been some surprises.

"With anything new, we don't know if it will be a hit or a miss," Grimaldi said. "With the soaps, Midnight Woods, which is the men's scent, has been tremendous. Neither of us expected the men's scents to go as quickly. We're kind of surprised by that, but happily surprised."

## "We always talked about how we'd love to do something fun on the side and see where it goes."

**Brendan Grimaldi**

store, and keeping inventory. When it comes to the products, each of us, more or less, specialize in certain items. My areas are the bar soaps, pet shampoos and lip balms, while Brendan works with the candles and wax melts, liquid soaps, lotions and sprays," he said.

"When we started to create our original lineup of scents, I would say our interests steered in different directions. We had scents that went across all products, but there were many that were unique to just the soaps or just the candles, etc.

"This actually turned out to be beneficial, as we were able to cast a wider net to see what scents were popular with our audience and which weren't catching on. Going

Other scents take a while to catch on.

"One Christmas scent, Frasier Fir, it's a basic tree scent and it didn't really sell at first. We figured we wouldn't make too many after the first batch. Then we had to make nine batches after the first two weeks because they just flew," he said.

"Lotions have been surprisingly big as well. That's not something we've done as much of."

They change some scents seasonally and also add additional products, such as beefing up their candle selection around the holidays.

"We wanted to have as robust a selection as possible," Grimaldi noted.




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courtesy photos



Brendan Grimaldi, left, and Mike Jakubowski are the founders of the Welles House Marketplace.

They name some products after local landmarks, such as the Wethersfield Cove, which lent its name to a body spray that is available for both men and women. Grimaldi said they try to limit the number of ingredients in their products.

"We definitely like to go as natural as possible. We use all essential oils. They're 100 percent pure fragrance oils. We use 100 percent pure waxes," he said.

"We make two different types of candles, paraffin and soy wax. We don't add any additives to just fill in. There's really no reason to add any-

thing extra. [The product] should definitely speak for itself."

Grimaldi said they like interacting with their customers on Facebook and are happy to listen to recommendations.

"We did a questionnaire about what holiday scents would you like to see. One was cinnamon. That wasn't one I planned to do. This is small and this is local right now, so we said we're going to do a cinnamon and it was a great seller," he said.

They're hoping to expand into doing farmers markets and craft shows and expect to be at the

Wethersfield Farmers Market this summer. The pair works on weekends and evenings to make the product.

"It's a lot of thinking ahead. You're really three months ahead of schedule," Grimaldi said.

He's looking forward to meeting customers in person at the farmers market.

"I definitely banked a lot of vacation days. Those are going to be full days off from my full-time job and it's going to be 100 percent focus on those days and probably even the day before," he said.

"And we might switch off weeks and obviously gauge after a few weeks, are people buying a lot of soaps and no candles? Are people buying candles and no soap? I think this is going to be our biggest learning year, which is exciting," he added.

They're experimenting with offering special items, such as candles in a teacup for Mother's Day. They're even working with a bride-to-be to offer a customized soap and candle favor for a wedding and, for the second year, will offer a Relay for Life soap, with 100 percent of the net

proceeds being donated to the American Cancer Society.

Jakubowski described the soap as a clean, soothing tropical fruit blend scent.

"Outside of the business, I am a big advocate for Relay for Life, and set up fundraisers throughout the year to raise funds for cancer research and support those in cancer treatment or post-treatment. I knew immediately that, with the business, I wanted to give back. We immediately started a fundraiser with the products to raise additional funds for our Relay for Life team," he said.

As they continue to develop new products, Grimaldi and Jakubowski focus on the quality of their merchandise.

"Every single thing that we make, we make with care and the feeling that everything is going to be used by us. Nothing is ever made by cutting corners and using cheap ingredients," Grimaldi said.

"We want something we're proud of, something people feel or use and say, 'This is really good,' and want to use again. And it's made in Wethersfield." **WL**



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# All about bugs

CREC Discovery Academy hosts literacy event celebrating insects

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Popcorn, fresh fruit and vegetables were among the snacks set out for children to enjoy, as were “dirt” and roasted bugs.

The CREC Discovery Academy held a special literacy event April 2 with a theme of insects, called “Bugging Out.” One of the school’s goals is to integrate science with literacy.

“We have an annual literacy night. Since we’re a STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] school, we’re really focusing on integrating curriculum,” Diana Leja, the school’s literacy coach, said.

Author and poet Leslie Bulion shared how she integrates scientific

facts in writing poetry and fiction. Lisa Monachelli from the Stamford Museum and Nature Center showed off a variety of animals including a millipede, tarantula, hedgehog and African monitor lizard.

She also served cups of honey-glazed popcorn topped with roasted mealworms and crickets. Principal Lynn Toper ate an entire cup of baked bugs to fulfill a promise made to the students for meeting their collective reading goals.

Monachelli said her insect treats were rinsed, flash frozen and then oven roasted. Eating an entire cup may sound extreme, but Toper considers it an improvement.

“Last year, I got duct taped to

the wall,” she said with a smile.

A beekeeper was on hand to talk about the world of bees and explain what he does. Children were encouraged to help themselves to a table full of free books.

Many of the teachers dressed up in some kind of insect costume, including Sarah Worley, who came dressed as a cockroach.

The so-called “dirt” was actually a dessert consisting of chocolate pudding and crushed Oreos topped with a gummy worm.

The evening was designed “to get them excited about literacy and to see the connection between literacy and science,” Toper said. **WL**



Photos by Mark Jahne

**ABOVE:** Sarah Worley donned a cockroach costume for literacy night at the CREC Discovery Academy. The evening’s theme was insects.



**LEFT:** What could be a better topping for a bowl of popcorn than baked crickets and mealworms? They are a source of protein and have a slightly nutty taste.



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# LIFE

## *in the classroom*

### After-school enrichment model may expand town-wide

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**W**ith the help of the Richard M. Keane Foundation, Charles Wright School was able to significantly change and expand its after-school enrichment programming this academic year.

Now, the program is faring so well that it is being touted as a

model for the other four elementary schools in town to follow. Jennifer March-Wackers, second year co-president of the Wright PTO, is thrilled with this development.

She said the previous after-school program was club-oriented and specific to the older children.

"I started to talk to folks about



Isabelle DeXanna and Piotr Wojtas participate in after-school enrichment at Charles Wright School.

Photos by Mark Jahne

expanding that," she said.

They quickly determined that using PTO volunteers to operate an expanded program would be a daunting task.

"We realized it was going to be a heavy lift for us," March-Wackers said. "We applied to the Keane Foundation last spring for enrich-

ment coordinator funding."

The PTO also requested programming money. Both were received and this year's expanded program, with offerings for grades K-6, is considered a pilot.

Organizers wanted everything to go well, so they put a great amount of time and attention into



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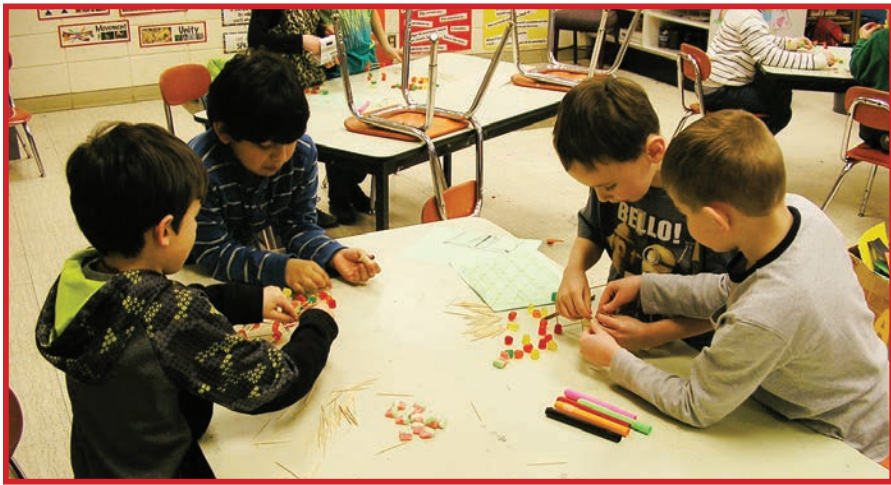
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**Andy Vera, Jack Berube, Jacob Wackers and Michael Pazzina work on their building skills.**

all the details, beginning this past summer. They met frequently with the volunteer enrichment committee, planned specific programs and conducted a hiring process.

They also developed processes and procedures in cooperation with Principal Glenn Horter. The registration process was streamlined, with one form sufficient for an entire household.

Grant money allowed them to hire Caroline Fazzina as the after-school enrichment coordinator. March-Wackers said Fazzina's involvement led to a better transition from the school day to after school, consistent safety policies, the ability to deal with issues as they arise, increasing the number and types of offerings and tying programs to school curriculum.

"We set a behavior policy and we set dismissal policies. We grew from seven programs in the fall to 12 this spring," March-Wackers said.

She added that prior programs run by parents are still up and running.

"This grew into something more than I ever envisioned. We're creating

a sense of community in our school," she said.

One of the future goals is to take the human resources function away from the PTO and place it with a non-volunteer organization to provide long-term sustainability.

After-school activities currently offered at Wright include art for grades one through three, art for grades four through six, chess club for grades K through six, hip hop for grades one through three, hip hop for grades four through six, LEGO imagination and construction for grades one through three and LEGO imagination and construction for grades four through six.

Costs range from \$10 to \$25 for three or four weeks. Chess is priced at \$80 and is a six-week program.

Fazzina said there were 144 students enrolled in the fall, and she expects to peak at around 170 for the spring term, out of a total enrollment of approximately 330 students.

She is a longtime member of the PTO and currently has a child in the school. She said having this afternoon enrichment helps motivate children

## "The kids love it. I have a student who says it's the best thing he's ever done."

**Caroline Fazzina**

to come to school each day. Socialization and sharing common interests are among the factors that draw them in.

Enrichment programs are offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday activities include Channel 3 Camp Ventures After School Programming.

One recent afternoon, students gathered in the art room. The goal was to use toothpicks and pieces of candy to engineer a miniature structure that was strong enough to hold up a book.

Fazzina said the number of enrichment choices has excited both students and parents. Her vision is to expand it to the other four elementary schools, one shared by others.

Horter is delighted with how the after-school program has grown and taken root. "I've been behind this program since day one. This is what parents want. It provides an after-school program that is best for kids and best for families. Caroline is outstanding," he said, adding that there will soon be a tutoring program specific to math.

A forum was held the evening of March 3 at the Pitkin Community Center that brought together multiple local organizations interested in this type of programming. The Keane Foundation and its Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Programs coordinated the forum.

Speakers included foundation President Judy Keane, WPS Family Liaison Kim Bobin, Fazzina and Barbara "Bobbie" Granato, chairwoman of the Board of Education. They all

support the expansion.

"To make our schools part of the community and not empty buildings after 4 o'clock is a goal we should all have," Granato said.

Bobin said research proves enrichment programs can reduce the achievement gap, improve attendance and perk up classroom behavior.

Fazzina said it is important to have a coordinator as well as directors at each school to maintain consistency. PTO members and other volunteers tend to come and go, which makes it difficult to maintain these types of programs over the long haul.

Having Keane Foundation funds also makes it possible to provide more expensive programs that in the past could not be offered because of their cost.

"We'd like to support current PTO enrichment programs and help them expand," she said. "Our goal is that every child who wants to do it gets to do it."

The plan is that all of these programs will be self-funded. A town-wide after-school enrichment program would be run with the support of the town Parks & Recreation Department.

Fazzina said uniformity across the town is not required. Each school can offer different programs that best fit its student population. She's already planning for the next academic year and hopes to add two more offerings at each school. She said the afternoon enrichment period can include homework help time for those students who need it. **WL**



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# Preserving an old-world tradition

Ukrainian Easter eggs are on display at Wethersfield Library

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

If one is planning to pick up a dozen of Eggland's Best to dip into some purple food dye, stop by the Wethersfield Library for a bit of inspiration. On display is a collection of Ukrainian Easter eggs, or pysankas, courtesy of resident and folk artist Tanya Osadca.

"I would estimate [there are] about 100 eggs of varying sizes in the display case now as well as embroidered cloths, baskets, ceramic items and some flyers with information about Ukraine and how the eggs are decorated," Library Associate Greta Horton said.

"Mrs. Osadca's work is impressive, very delicate, with intricate designs and patterns. We are very pleased to have it on display again at the Wethersfield Library."

Osadca has one of the largest pysanky collections outside of Ukraine. Born in Poland to Ukrainian parents, she learned to make the eggs when she was a child.

"My mother kept to the all the Ukrainian traditions. She taught us how to make the Easter eggs. I learned at a very early age, maybe 6 or 7," she said.

"I use a simple stick to paint the design with beeswax. Anything with wax would stay white."

Then, one color at a time, she dyes the eggs, repeating the process of painting the eggs with wax and dyeing with different colors to create elaborate designs.

First yellow, followed by green, red and black. Although it's not traditional, she adds a glossy finish to



Photos by Mara Dresner

Tanya Osadca shows off some of the many Easter eggs she has decorated in the traditional Ukrainian style. She learned the technique from her mother when she was a child.

preserve the colors.

A simple design might take her an hour-and-a-half to two hours to complete. A complicated egg might take as many as three hours.

She does meticulous research about the designs.

"I started doing research on

them since I came to the United States. At that time, because of religious persecution in the Soviet Union, people were not permitted to celebrate Easter. I realized since I knew how to do it, since I have the family tradition, I started to research them," Osadca said.

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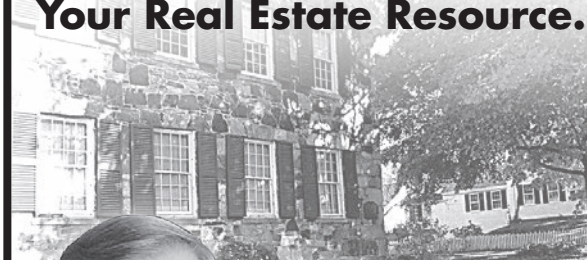


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"I remembered eggs from my childhood, my mother's, my great-grandmother's designs. I discovered so many regions with different types of designs, so I started slowly to do research.

"Eventually, I have quite a big collection of the materials. Now I'm trying to bring this to order," she added.

As part of the process, she has donated more than 1,000 eggs to the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford. She has a cabinet full of hand-written cards with information about the eggs, as well as shelves of folders.

She blows out the contents of the eggs, a modern touch.

"Traditionally, they were made with whole eggs, not boiled. Not only that, the eggs were supposed to be fertilized, so there was a life in each egg," she explained.

"The eggs had to be chicken eggs and not boiled. The egg itself was a symbol of life; there was a life inside. Eventually when the chick was born, it became a symbol of resurrection, like Christ came from this; He moved the stone from His grave and was resurrected," she said.

"The fact of this little

chicken being born from this hard shell became a symbol of the resurrection. To emphasize the strength of this egg, they put some kind of symbols of it."

One traditional design, for example, was an eight-pointed star that was symbolic of the sun. Designs varied, depending on the area.

"Everything had a meaning," she said. "My grandmother did very simple designs. There's an area in the Ukraine, in the Carpathian Mountains, where they are very artistic. They are woodcarvers. They do very intricate designs."

Those designs might include floral patterns; animals such as deer, birds and horses; oak leaves and pine leaves.

"Anything that had the quality of lasting forever was very important," Osadca said.

Even flowers and leaves were designed in a special way and not just randomly painted.

"[It's] a never-ending line, something forever lasting. [It symbolizes] everlasting life, wealth, health. If you wanted to give somebody an egg with this symbol, you are wishing this person well," she said.

The eggs were traditionally taken to the church to be blessed.

"They are given as gifts.

They are used for all kinds of rituals like healing," she added.

Osadca has also decorated goose eggs, which are much larger than chicken eggs.

"They were traditionally not decorated because they had more value," she said.

The artist took a round-about route before arriving in town. She and her late husband, Bohdan, originally came to the United States in 1950, living in New Jersey.

"My husband was a physician, but at that time we still couldn't speak English. We were working in the factories," she recalled. "When he could communicate in English, he started his internship."

They moved to Illinois.

"The papers we got coming to the United States had the stipulation as soon as he gets his [medical] license to report to the recruitment office, which he did. They immediately called him into military service and he served three years in the Navy, which was very nice for us. We moved to San Diego," she said.

The family, which includes daughter Irma, a painter whose artwork adorns Osadca's home, and son Cornel, lived in Chicago when Dr. Osadca was



The Easter eggs created by Tanya Osadca have a variety of designs, each with a special meaning.



## “I discovered so many regions with different types of designs, so I started slowly to do research.”

**Tanya Osadca**

doing his residency in psychiatry before moving again to Cleveland.

“Our poor daughter, by the time she got to high school, she went to eight different schools. For her, it wasn’t very nice,” Osadca said.

They lived in Cleveland for about 25 years. By this time, her son and his family lived in Grafton, Massachusetts, and Osadca and her husband, who passed away in 2009, moved to Wethersfield to be closer to them.

She has passed her Easter tradition on to her family.

“In my family, everybody knows how to do it. My daughter is very good at it. My grandchildren already have it in their genes. When Easter comes, they have to decorate their eggs,” she said.

She used to belong to a

Ukrainian folk art group on Yahoo and recently joined Facebook.

She’s even taught how to decorate the eggs via Skype to a group in Austin, Texas.

Her eggs have been on exhibit at the Ukrainian Museum in New York and at the San Diego Museum of Art. She continues to make the pysankas.

“First of all, what I enjoy is that I have grown up with it. It’s in my genes,” she said.

“It is tranquilizer, it is medicine. You sit down and you start decorating, you are forgetting all your problems. With good background music, you’re in heaven.” **WL**

*Her exhibit will run through the end of April. For more information contact the library at 860-257-2814 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org).*



Tanya Osadca has decorated thousands of Easter eggs, or pysankas, using a candle, a simple wooden tool and dye.

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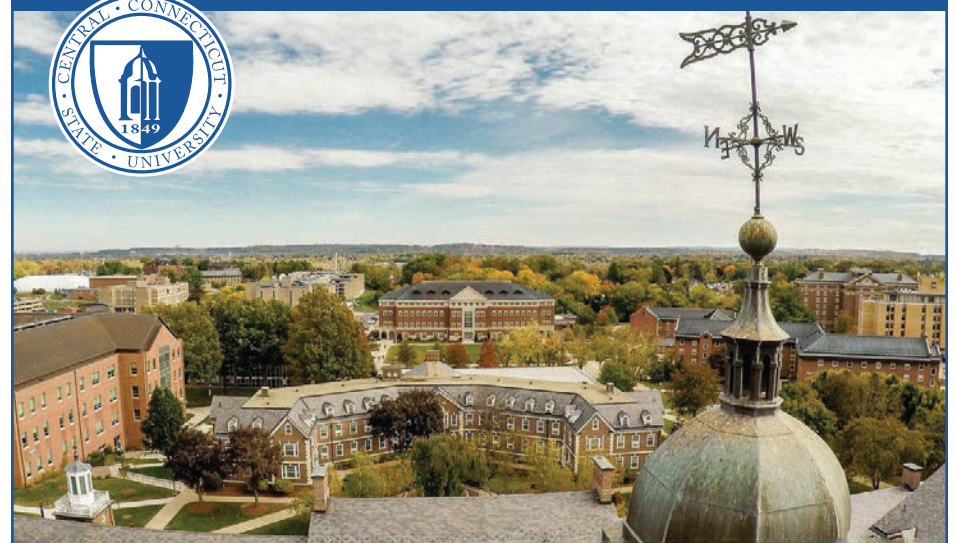


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# LIFE

## *in the kitchen*

With Wyman Lin of Edo Ichi Sushi & Hibachi Steakhouse

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

**I**t's been a long journey to Wethersfield for Chef Wyman Lin of Edo Ichi Sushi & Hibachi Steakhouse.

Born in China, he came to the United States in 2002 at the age of 25. He first lived in New York City, where he joined family, before moving to North Carolina, where he

began to hone his kitchen skills at a sushi restaurant.

"I enjoyed cooking. Sometimes we would go to [a] restaurant and if he [the chef] did a good job, I want to do the same," Lin said.

In North Carolina, he worked at a restaurant owned by some relatives.



Chef Wyman Lin was born in China and enjoys creating intricate sushi options at Edo Ichi Sushi & Hibachi Steakhouse.

Photos by Mara Dresner

"I make this kind of food. I learn sushi, I learn hibachi, everything. That's my first job," he said.

Lin was especially drawn to making sushi.

"The first thing is ... sushi is healthy," he said.

"The second thing is I really enjoyed to make it. You know why?

With sushi, you have to decide. With each plate, you decide the detail, how the design [looks]. What's interesting about sushi is the food is so healthy and also when you make it. I really enjoy my job."

John Zeng had been running a restaurant in Pennsylvania for about four years before coming

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to Connecticut.

"We had a friend in Glastonbury. He said, 'Why you not open a restaurant here?' So we found this location," Lin explained.

They split the restaurant's responsibilities.

"He make the food and is in charge of the kitchen and sushi," said Zeng, who handles the front of the house side of things.

"We are family and the second thing, he is good, good guy. Sometimes when you're hiring people, you don't know. Sometimes, they make nice food, but they're not good people," he added.

"It's very important. We do the business, we want to take care of the customer. We want all the customers to be happy and enjoy the food here."

They take special care to help diners choose the right items.

"We try to open the menu and show the customer detail, what's the sushi, what's the sashimi. For a new customer who has never been to a sushi restaurant, we talk to them

about the detail, the best way to eat," Zeng said.

"We talk to the waitresses; they know how to take good care of customers. Wyman sometimes will be talking to a special customer or [someone] who has never been here about how to order the food."

The restaurant has two entrances. The front entrance on the Silas Deane Highway next to the Flower Box makes the eatery appear much smaller than it actually is.

"It looks like a take-out restaurant. When people come here for the first time, they do word of mouth [and] tell a friend. It's very important for my business. They come here one time and they never forget about my restaurant," Lin said with a laugh.

The sushi is the centerpiece of Edo Ichi and Lin is proud of the quality.

"The fish is always fresh. That's very important for my business," he said. "Every dish is special. I make it look like a picture. I make it happy."

That means going far beyond

the usual ginger that one might find on the plate when ordering sushi. Lin's plates might include garnishes of flowers or even an illuminated plastic animal.

"A lot of customers take a picture [of their food]," he said.

He added that they will accommodate customers' preferences and feature a number of vegetarian dishes.

There are more than 40 classic rolls, such as spicy tuna, avocado and salmon, as well as 35 chef's special rolls, where Lin's creativity is clear. The eponymous Wyman Roll features tuna, salmon and avocado inside with whitefish, tempura flakes, seaweed salad and sauce on top.

The Yummy Yummy Roll has shrimp tempura and spicy tuna on the inside with spicy lobster on top, while the Edo Special Roll is whitefish wrapped over a California roll, topped with a house special sauce

and baked in the oven.

Lin also creates special rolls each week, depending on what fresh ingredients he has on hand.

The menu also features tempura, various noodle entrees, teriyaki (with a choice of vegetable, tofu, beef, salmon, shrimp, mixed seafood, red snapper or filet mignon) and nine hibachi options. There are a number of lunchtime specials, including a bento box for \$9.50.

"He [Lin] knows how to make sushi, hibachi. He knows how to make good food. I got the experience for running the business," Zeng said. "We know the family, we know each other, so we want to make a nice business here." **WL**

*Edo Ichi Sushi & Hibachi Steakhouse is located at 580 Silas Deane Highway. Call 860-436-4444 or view edoichirestaurant.com.*



**Chef Wyman Lin enjoys the creativity of making sushi, adding special flairs to the plate, such as flowers and animals.**

### ***Chef Wyman Lin answered six questions for more insight on his personality and know-how.***

#### ***What's your "secret weapon" ingredient?***

Sushi sauce. Mango sauce, coconut sauce, sriracha sauce. The other restaurants don't know how to make [the sauces].

#### ***What's your least favorite food?***

Ask what food you like, I can talk to you. I like everything, some things a little bit more, some things a little bit less. A steak, USDA choice filet mignon, that's [my] favorite. Pork, I just eat a little bit. But I eat everything.

#### ***If you weren't a chef, what profession would you be?***

My second choice? If I change, that's really hard. I have another idea in my mind, a businessman from my country. In China, I would open a store.

#### ***What spice or herb best describes your personality?***

Hot pepper. "He's warm and nice to people," said John Zeng, the owner of Edo Ichi. "He's a nice guy."

#### ***What do you like to cook when having guests to your home?***

Some traditional Chinese food and sushi.

#### ***It's your last meal on earth. What's on your plate?***

Steak hibachi [and] potatoes. We like steak combined with drink. I like the mai tai.

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# Getting into politics

High school hosts clubs for teenage Democrats and Republicans

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**W**ethersfield High School students are getting their first taste of politics during one of the most unusual presidential election campaigns in American history, but that isn't stopping the members of the Young Democrats and Young Republicans clubs from looking for ways that political activism can benefit society at large.

The Democrats are the older one of the pair. The club was started by retired teacher Susan Fennelly, and one of the early members was Chris Murphy, who grew up to become a U.S. senator. English teacher John Gallivan is the faculty advisor; he's also chairman of the Democratic Town Committee.

The Republicans are a newer group with a smaller, but growing, membership. Social studies teacher

Jeff Moger serves as faculty advisor.

Several of the teenage Democrats and one student representing the GOP got together one recent day after school to speak with Wethersfield LIFE about why they chose to participate in these clubs.

Ingela Shannahan, a senior, is president of the Young Democrats, a post she has held for the past two years. She joined the group as a sophomore. Her father is a registered Democrat and greatly interested in politics, and this has an influence on her. Her mother is an unaffiliated voter.

"I wanted to get more involved in things around school," Shannahan said. "I'm a strong believer in freedom of speech, of religion, of accepting other cultures."

She believes that government has a responsibility to help the less fortunate. She looks forward to voting in the presidential election in



Photo by Mark Jahne

Members of the Wethersfield High School Young Democrats Club include Eric Bucknam, Devon Kleeblat, Atlee Myers, Chelsea Pinchera, Lea Sipala, Lily Gaunt, Brenna Shannahan, Chris Santos, Rachel Llorens and Ingela Shannahan. They recently cast their mock votes for president and the unanimous choice was U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.

November and may opt to study political science in college.

Shannahan said the presidential campaign and its many debates, as well as the differing positions of the candidates, is "very interesting" to follow.

Sophomore Atlee Myers is originally from Kansas, living in "probably the only Democratic town in the

entire state." Her older sister was a Young Democrat and her parents are politically active. She cited women's and educational issues as being the most important to her in the current campaign.

Junior Christopher Santos sees politics as a way to help others. His father owns a supermarket in Hartford

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and sets a charitable example.

"Through Young Democrats, I am able to volunteer at the South Park Inn," he said. "I want to be more involved in my local government."

Santos added that he learned a lot about social work from his political involvement thus far, and it has influenced him to consider psychology as a profession.

Sophomore Lily Gaunt's brother participated in the club last year, which inspired her to join.

"I think it's cool that you can have an impact on that, even in high school," she said.

Faculty adviser Gallivan is delighted with the interest his students have displayed for volunteering in the community.

"It's really grown tremendously over the past two years," he said.

Moger, the other faculty adviser, said the Young Republicans Club was founded four years ago. It briefly disbanded, then reformed, and students run the meetings. Some of them volunteer on Election Day.

"They get a taste for how politics works. They get a venue for voicing their opinions about things," he said. "They get experience at the local level."

Benjamin Milano, a junior, is the president. His career goal is to work in law enforcement and then become fully active in the political field.

"I enjoy politics and watch it on the national news. I want to know what's going on in our system of government," he said. "My Mom's more liberal and my dad's more Republican." **WL**



Members of the Wethersfield High School Young Republicans Club include, kneeling, Mathew Gerhart; first row, from left, Jared Kauffman, Katie Ginter, Benjamin Milano, Will Odell, Brian Heaven and Caleb Skowronek; second row, from left, Jason Sharp, Conor Keane, Ryan Skelly, faculty adviser Jeff Moger and Jack Blaisdell. They cast mock votes for their favorite GOP presidential candidate and the winner was Donald Trump, followed by U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Photo courtesy of Benjamin Milano

**"I want to be more involved in my local government."**

**Christopher Santos**



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# LIFE back then

Uncle Sam wants to thank Ralph Nelson for his art

by Rachel Zilinski

Wethersfield Historical Society

**H**anging in the Rotary Room and nearby hallway of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center are four murals painted by Ralph Lewis Nelson. Nelson (1885-1967) painted these murals of the founding of Wethersfield for the public schools in town as a commission by the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project.

He discovered his artistic skills while attending Baptist College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Nelson worked in commercial art, newspaper cartooning and freelance work after graduation.

He is most famous for his collaborative design with James Montgomery Flagg on the Uncle Sam "I Want You" poster he conceived

while a sergeant in the U.S. Marines during World War I. The Uncle Sam recruiting poster is an adaptation of the British poster created in 1914 featuring Lord Kitchener, the British secretary of state for war.

Nelson is credited with the design of the sketch and concept, while Flagg colored and finished the poster. He was always dismayed that he never received credit for his adaptive design.

Following the war, Nelson lived and worked out of a studio in New York City until 1932, when he and his wife moved to Wilton. He began working for the Public Works of Art Project and then the Federal Arts Project in 1935.

He is credited with 188 easel works and numerous murals to be



Photos courtesy of the Wethersfield Historical Society

**"Connecticut Indians Appealing to Governor Winthrop to Come to Connecticut" originally hung in the assembly room of Charles Wright School on Nott Street. It depicts a stereotypical Native American of the Wongunk tribe inviting John Winthrop of Massachusetts Colony to send colonists to settle the Connecticut River Valley.**

displayed around the state. For a list of his work inventoried by the Connecticut State Library visit: <http://wpa.cslib.org/index.php/532/nelson-ralph/>

During World War II, Nelson worked at the American Brass company and his wife at the Timex Watch Company, both in Waterbury, while he volunteered his artistic talents with the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers designing portable altars for Sunday religious services at the front lines.

Following the war, he worked designing greeting cards for Bethlehem Greeting Card Company and Hallmark Greeting Card Company, as well as selling his paintings privately.

He continued to paint despite failing eyesight until his death on

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**"Man in the Stocks" originally hung in the Griswoldville School, which is now the Stephen Mix Mitchell Apartments. It depicts the stern public punishment given to those who broke civil or church laws.**

May 7, 1967 in Bethlehem.

Staff at Bethlehem Public Library contacted the Wethersfield Historical Society regarding a watercolor painting that had hung on the wall of their adult fiction department for at least 25 years. The painting the staff simply referred to as "Pilgrims" was reframed and they found a note written by the artist.

The note explained it was a sketch for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that was to

hang in the Frances-Silliman School. The search was on for the Bethlehem Public Library to find out more about the artist and where it was to be displayed.

After much hunting, they contacted the Wethersfield Historical Society wondering if "Frances Silliman School" could be the Francis-Stillman School on Hartford Avenue.

After initial examination of the watercolor, it was found similar to



**"The Arrival of the First Settlers" mural originally hung in Stillman School (Francis-Stillman School) Building at 129 Hartford Ave.**

the Ralph Nelson mural currently hanging in the Rotary Room of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. The mural depicts the early settlers of Wethersfield walking to Connecticut from Watertown, Massachusetts.

This mural used to hang in the Francis-Stillman School, which now serves as the Wethersfield Public Schools central office, until it was restored in 1996. The painting was then loaned by the town to the his-

torical society for permanent display in the Keeney Center.

According to a 1936 Hartford Courant article "Wilton Artist Designs Murals for Schools in Wethersfield," Nelson created five murals for local schools. One, of a man in a pillory, which originally hung in the Ridge Road School (now torn down), is unaccounted for. **WL**

*Rachel Zilinski is the former curator of the Wethersfield Historical Society.*

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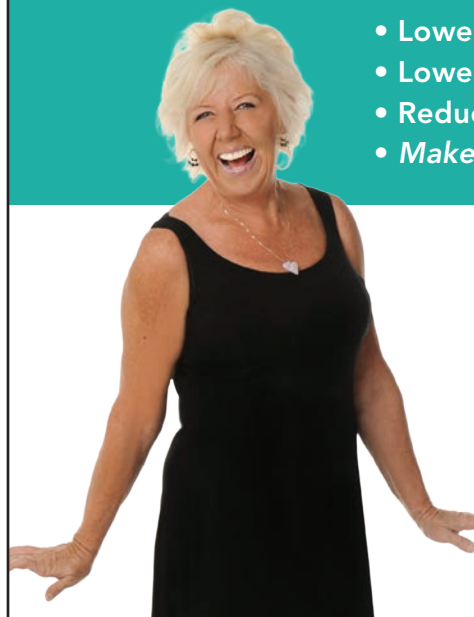
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# *Living* **spaces**

**Spring Home Improvement**



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## LIVING Spaces

# Staging to stay

Experts offer advice on how to fall in love with your home again

by Alicia B. Smith  
Staff Writer

**Y**ou loved it enough to buy your home all those years ago, but time has taken the gleam off the old abode and now you are ready to get out.

Circumstances require that some people move, but for those who truly would rather stay put but are tired of the same old furniture and fixings – there's a solution. Learn ways to make your home fresh and fall in love with it all over again.

Home stagers assist clients in making their houses beautiful so that potential buyers will envision themselves living in the space and make an offer. Their tips and techniques can also help you see your home in a new light.

Tamatha Wolfel, stager and owner of Infinite Home Design in Wethersfield, said, "There are



After

Infinite Home clients remade their bedroom into a warm and inviting space with new furniture and a rug. The fireplace came from another room in their house.

Before



Courtesy photos

many ways you can freshen up your house if you want to put in the time; it can change the entire look."

When working with clients to sell their home, Wolfel suggests decluttering, removing odors and cleaning windows.

"The first rule of thumb is if it's seven years old, it should go," Wolfel said. "That is the cycle of trends."

Another detractor is clutter, no matter what kind – magazines, clothing or odd collections of stuff – because clutter makes a space look dated and smaller than it actually is. Wolfel suggests using bags to sort items: one for things to keep, one for things that can be sold and another for items to throw out.

This is also a great time to go through the home and bring in new accessories, from curtains and throw pillows to new lamps, or just new lampshades and centerpieces. Accessories can update a space and add pops of color and texture all for a relatively small monetary investment. Sometimes all it can take is rearranging the art on the walls.

For those with some more time, painting rooms with a fresh coat of paint and even a new color is another way to make a huge impact.

"Painting is one of the best ways to freshen up a room," Wolfel said.

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## LIVING Spaces

walls. Wolfel said that a fresh coat of paint on a wooden piece of furniture, along with some new handles, changes the look and feel of a room.

Chalkboard paint is big now and adding some to the surface of a coffee table is a fun way to update the piece.

**“The first rule of thumb is if it’s seven years old, it should go. That is the cycle of trends.”**

**– Tamatha Wolfel, Infinite Home Design**

“If you have a dark wood set from the ’80s, it’s solid wood and beautiful and you don’t want to throw it away, do it with chalk paint and put some new handles on it and you have a whole new set,” she said.

With a bit of muscle and a few hours, rearranging furniture is another option – keeping in mind the less is more philosophy. Using fewer pieces

of furniture in a space gives it a modern look.

Sometimes the placement of items is the change maker. Keeping a less cluttered mantel is important. If there are bookcases in the room, rearrange the books so they are not strictly lined up horizontally on the shelves, rather, have a mix of horizontal and vertical books and add a decorative item or a vase next to a stack of books.

“A shelf that goes all the way across is not conducive to a fresh, modern look,” Wolfel said.

Kitchens and bathrooms are still important to selling homes and Wolfel advised they not be overlooked when staging your own home to stay.

“I’ve seen the backsplash make and break deals,” she said.

If it’s too busy or gaudy, change it to something more contemporary.

Older cabinets can be a turnoff when selling a house, so chances are good that they are also not appealing to the homeowner either. They can be updated with a fresh coat of paint and new hardware.

Old counters? Apply a granite coating to create the look of this luxurious material, Wolfel suggested.

To update the bathroom, paint the old wooden vanity and buy new curtains; using only white towels “just makes it seem fresh and new,” she said.

Other suggestions include painting the front door for a fresh and inviting feeling for you, not just your guests.

When working with clients, Wolfel will walk with them through each room of their home. Often, initially, they are hesitant to make changes, but by the time they get to the third room, Wolfel said they begin to understand why staging is important. Wolfel suggested letting a good, trusted friend go through your home with you and make suggestions.

“The thing is,” she said, “even stag-ers, when we go to sell our house, we get other stagers to do it; we are just so used to our surroundings we justify it all and say OK. It’s always good to get an outside view, someone who is not critical. They may come up with something you never thought of before.”

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## LIVING Spaces



**Before**

**After**

Danielle Needle was able to refresh this bathroom by removing outdated wallpaper, adding new lighting and getting rid of curtains that made the room dark.

contents can help identify pieces that might work better in another space.

For those who might feel intimidated about the process or feel they

don't have the design chops to make a difference, there is hope.

Simsbury-based Danielle Needle, a professional home stager and redesign consultant who also works as a realtor, suggests homeowners start by doing some research. Looking through home and garden magazines or searching online can help identify

appealing designs to replicate.

"I think people feel they don't have enough space," Needle said, noting that a space can feel confining due to furniture placement and traffic patterns.

For Needle, who owned her own home staging company in Florida, the biggest thing a homeowner can do is "lighten and brighten."

This could mean something as simple as putting brighter light bulbs in lamps, adding new lighting or swapping out dark window treatments for lighter ones.

Paint, too, can go a long way to making an impact. It can help brighten up a room and Needle suggested staying with neutral colors.

"Just putting on a neutral color makes a world of difference," she said.

Look down, too – at the flooring. Old carpet can make a space feel uninspired. If it's not possible to remove older carpeting, Needle suggested having it professionally cleaned, which will brighten it up and help with any odors that may be lurking. If you are able to install new flooring, selecting lighter colors will make a difference.

There are easy and reasonably priced ways to make the bathroom and kitchen stand out, too. Needle said laminate countertops could be

Courtesy photos



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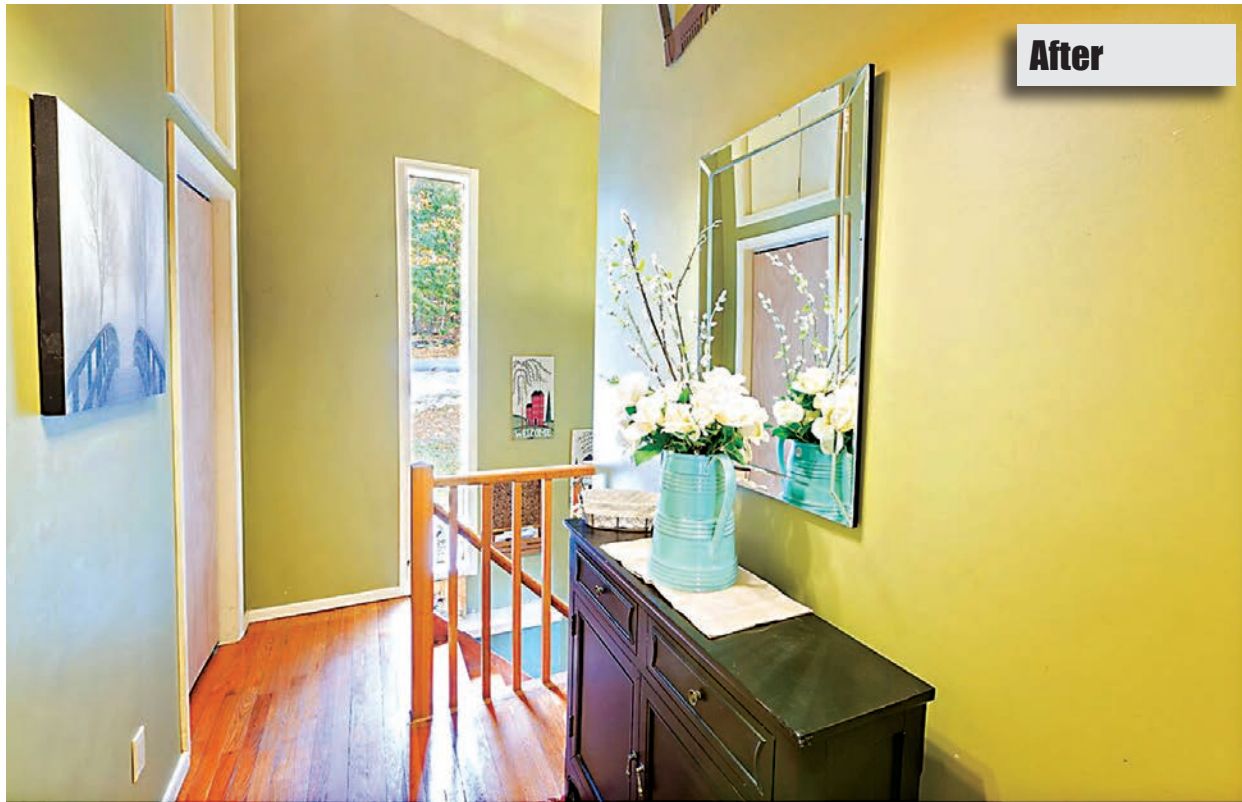
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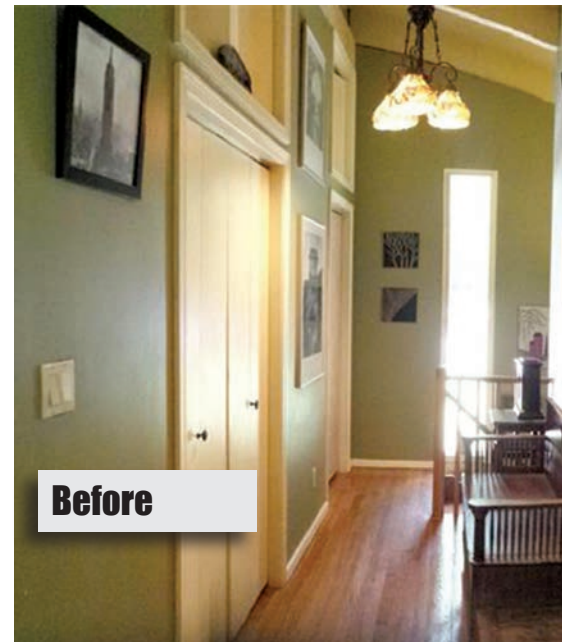




## LIVING Spaces



After



Before

Polishing wood, washing windows and swapping out old pieces for a beveled mirror, a narrow console and a small area rug make for a more modern entry.

Courtesy photos

painted, as can cabinets, which will have a big impact.

Adding new hardware also helps. If the budget allows, investing

in new, updated appliances is another way to go.

For the bathrooms, Needle suggested putting in a pedestal sink,

explaining it's new and takes up less space. There are other simple projects that Needle has done herself that can make a change for the

better. If there is a dated piece of furniture that has sentimental value, adding a new slipcover is an option. Any artwork that homeowners love

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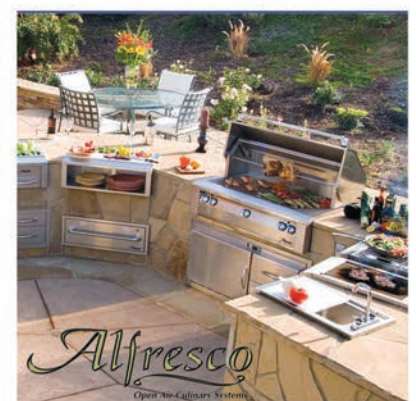
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## LIVING Spaces

can have a fresh new vibe by just swapping the frame or painting the one it already has.

"They have that 'aha' moment, 'I never thought to do that.'" is often the response Needle hears from clients. "They are actually really grateful you helped them with a vision."

The vision shared by Ridgewood Designs co-owners Leslie Ryan and Libby Gallant includes softer colors and decluttering. Twenty years of experience has enabled them to make quick suggestions on how to fall in love with your home all over again.

Paint goes a long way toward updating a home, Ryan said, noting that gray is a popular color along with softer coastal colors.

"The trend is no longer the Crayola crayon box colors where every room is a different color," she said. Rather, choose one soft color and paint the rooms the same throughout the home.

Gallant suggested replacing old wallpaper, explaining that although wallpaper is in at the moment, painting is better, quicker and less expensive.

Decluttering is another way to improve the look of a home. That includes moving out extra furniture, clearing off shelves,

removing outdated window treatments and taking everything off the refrigerator.

"Sometimes nothing is better than something," Ryan said.

It would be a good idea to deep clean the house as well, have carpets shampooed, or better yet, if there is hardwood underneath, remove the carpet all together.

Updating photographs on display also goes a long way in keeping things fresh.

"If your kids are in college and you still have their baby pictures out, it's time for a fresh look," Gallant said.

When switching out photos, it would be a good time to swap the frames, too, and opt for matching frames rather than a mix of colors or styles.

Those that match will help create a composed collection, Ryan said.

Other ideas include having any popcorn ceilings in the home skim coated and painting the ceiling with clean, white paint.

Changing out light fixtures, Gallant

said, was another way to update a room's look. They echoed other experts, saying time and money spent in the kitchen is well spent.

Gallant suggested painting the cabinets gray or white for a fresh and clean look.

For "an amazing transformation"

**"The trend is no longer the Crayola crayon box colors where every room is a different color."**

**– Leslie Ryan, Ridgewood Designs**

in the bathroom, Ryan suggested giving the old pink, green or orange tub a white surface. To freshen up a room, Gallant proposed adding pops of color with pillows and throws that can be purchased at any number of places.

"When we go to stage a home, sometimes it does happen. People come back and say, 'Wow, I don't want to leave,'" Ryan said. **WL**



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## LIVING Spaces

# Bathroom breaks

Look what you can do with \$500 and a weekend

by Alicia B. Smith  
Staff Writer

**H**ome decorating shows, magazine articles and Pinterest photos can leave you feeling that your bathroom is inadequate. While prices for high-end fixtures and features can soar into the thousands, significant changes can be made with a budget of \$500 and a weekend's worth of work.

David Litchfield of David Litchfield Building & Remodeling in Simsbury suggested taking a close look at the bathroom.

Paint is not expensive and makes a big impact. Litchfield suggested that a fresh coat of paint can go a long way, but warned that the project is not as easy as some may think and that careful attention

needs to be paid with any painting project so it comes out well. He suggested using a neutral color.

Work on the grout in the room as well.

"Cleaning the grout and getting the grout in good shape and looking at poorly installed silicon or grout and caulking around the tubs and showers" is important, he said.

Investing in a new shower door can be a good investment, Litchfield said. Sliding doors that span a tub cost \$300 and up, while those for a shower stall are less.

"It may be a major improvement over what is there now," he said.

If the bathroom is truly decorated from another era – think pink toilet and tub – it might be worth

getting a new toilet and investigate the cost of repainting the tub.

Replacing a toilet can be done in an afternoon, and a simple white toilet can be found starting at \$100.

Bathtubs can be purchased for as low as \$250, but replacing them is not an easy job. Replacing sinks is slightly easier, and white pedestal models can be found at home improvement stores starting at less than \$200.

The easiest method would be to refinish tubs, sinks and tile with one of the spray- or brush-on formulas in bright white. Prices start at about \$50 for one tub or two sinks. Once applied, the fixture must cure for three to five days before use. **WL**  
*More information on David Litchfield Building & Remodeling of Simsbury can be found at [davidlitchfieldbuilding.com](http://davidlitchfieldbuilding.com) or by calling 860-651-0123.*



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## Margo Mikunda

I was born in Poland and came to America in 1980. At that time in Poland, all housing belonged to the government, so selling real estate seemed like such an unusual path for me. Since then I have been serving my clients for 28 years!

Before I stated my own firm, I worked for several other real estate agencies for 22 years. I opened Complete Real Estate in 2012. For many years I worked exclusively as a buyers agent, so I understand all of the problems and issues associated with purchasing a home. This gives me the upper hand when I represent sellers, because I know how to ensure a smooth transaction.

Complete Real Estate is a small, family owned business. Both of my sons, who are UConn graduates workd with me. We are passionate about real estate, and our mission is client satisfaction. I offer honesty, integrity, experience, education, and the utmost of care and love for what I do.

My education is extensive, including GRI (graduate real estate institute), CDPE (certified distress property expert), SRS (seller representative specialist) and RENE (real estate negotiation expert). I have also received the multi-year 5 star award by CT Magazine and Top Producer by Hartford Magazine. I always have time for you! Call me for all of your real estate needs!



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Joanne Breen will be celebrating 38 years in real estate this fall. Together with her late business partner, Sam Sargis, Joanne has been a broker-owner of ERA Sargis-Breen in Newington since 1992 and they opened their 2nd office in Berlin in 2005.

Two-time recipients of ERA's national Jim Jackson Award for Customer Satisfaction, 2012 ERA Hall of Fame inductee and 2014 Commitment to Excellence Award winner, Joanne attributes her success and that of her company to paying attention to the details of each transaction and treating every client like family. Joanne has never lost her enthusiasm for real estate whether it be training agents new to the business, working with clients or interacting with other realtors. Joanne is 2016 President of the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors which has over 3500 members. Always keeping an eye to the future, Joanne is especially excited about ERA's new ZAP internet platform which is taking the real estate industry to a whole new level of customer service that she and her sales associates can offer their clients.



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## LIVING Spaces



# Ask the experts

The LIFE papers asked local real estate experts a few questions related to the current real estate market. Here is what they had to say:

**Q. What advice do you have for buyers and sellers in the current market?**

A. "Here is my advice to buyers and sellers in today's market: do not wait. Sellers: many homeowners feel that prices will go higher and so they'd like to wait for that. Anyone who bought in 2007 or before bought at the height of the real estate market and are eagerly waiting for those prices to return. Some homeowners like to wait until the "spring market." In the winter months, inventory is typically lower, therefore there is less competition. In the spring, there is always a flood on homes coming on the market and now you are competing with much more inventory. Buyers: when the market is busiest in the spring, do not hesitate to make an offer on a home you love. Chances are one or more other buyers are also in love with that home. By waiting, two

things can happen: the house gets sold while you are waiting, or you get into a multiple offer situation."

-Rosemary Gunning, sales manager, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, West Hartford

A. "My advice for buyers is to narrow down your search to what is manageable. Pick your top three towns and start there. Stay within a tight price range with no more than a \$25,000-\$30,000 variance. Additionally, try to look beyond the minor cosmetic issues that can make a house look dated. You might be passing up a gem just because it doesn't have that Pottery Barn look.

Lastly, don't wait too long to make the offer when you see what you want. If you perceive it to be a good deal, someone else will too and then you could end up in a bidding war. For sellers, come out of the gate with your house looking its absolute best. Clear out the clutter, remove excess furniture in rooms and make the house sparkle so it is "showroom ready." If you can improve the look of a room by just painting it or

removing some wallpaper, do it. Even minor cosmetic work can lower the final sale price of your home by thousands of dollars if buyers perceive it as needing "a lot of work." Price your house aggressively. This is no market to speculate; and the longer that house sits on the market, the lower the final sale price."

-Joanne Breen, broker/owner, ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate Co., Newington

A. "My advice is to be flexible. The market is in transition. There are homes that are going under contract with multiple offers right away and there are homes that are still sitting for many months. Buyers and sellers should heed the advice of their licensed agent and be prepared to adjust their buying and selling goals accordingly. Overall, the market is heading up, so it is a great time to buy with rates still at historic lows."

-Robert L. Levine, broker/owner, Hart Real Estate LLC, West Hartford

**Q. What misconceptions are common among buyers and sellers?**



## LIVING Spaces

A. "There are many real estate Internet sites that purport to be the resource to use to estimate value of the home you are selling or buying. While they can be helpful tools, the best way to understand the current real estate climate and get a more accurate value on your home is to use the professional services of a licensed Realtor. A misconception is that sellers and buyers net more money not using a Realtor. In fact, statistics show that sellers who use Realtors net more money. Buyers who use a buyer's agent are more successful in attaining their real estate goals."

*-Margaret Wilcox,  
Realtor, William  
Raveis, Glastonbury*

A. "The biggest one buyers and sellers have regarding our business is about how agents get paid. Most people seem to think the agent gets the whole commission for him or herself. In reality, the commission is split up between several entities. In the end, the agent may only make 1 or 2 percent of a 6 percent commission. Out of this, the agents pay all their expenses, including the cost of equipment necessary to run their businesses. Any additional professional training that agents take is also their financial responsibility. Our industry has high business and ethical standards, to which agents pledge to adhere."

An agent cannot risk losing his/her license by unethical behavior, even when asked by a client to do so (which happens more often than one might guess). Another common misconception right now, specifically held by buyers, is that if they sign a Buyer Representation Agreement with a broker to look at properties, they will be obligated to pay the

commission if they buy one. In fact, 99.99 percent of the time, the seller still pays the total commission for rentals as well as property sales."

*-Jane von Holzhausen,  
manager, Coldwell Banker  
Residential Brokerage, Avon*



**"When the market is busiest in the spring, do not hesitate to make an offer on a home you love. Chances are one or more other buyers are also in love with that home."**

**-Rosemary Gunning**

A. "The most common misconception among sellers today is that prices are on the rise. In fact, they are flat and even trending down for the past several years."

The volume of sales statewide was up nearly 20 percent in 2015, but the median value of homes statewide was down nearly 5 percent. In January 2016, sales were up almost 25 percent from last January, but the median sales price was still flat. Another common misconception of sellers is that the process to sell their property will be drawn out. If a property is priced accurately, the average number of days on market is under 30 days, and there are actually homes that are receiving multiple bids. There is a shortage of good inventory in today's marketplace.

As far as buyers go, the most common misconception

is that the house they will buy will be perfect. Buyers are taking home inspection reports too literally. Sellers are not willing to upgrade every item in their home just because they aren't brand new in order to consummate a sale. This situation is creating negotiating difficulties between buyers and sellers."

*-Mike Tracy, office leader,  
Berkshire Hathaway New  
England Properties,  
Newington*

**Q. What trends in pricing have you noticed over the last six months?**

A. "Prices on homes that are in good condition and priced right are increasing.

They are selling very quickly, especially in the first time homebuyer range: \$175,000-\$350,000. It's very competitive and sellers are paying attention. There are a lot of buyers out there, and not a vast amount of inventory. However, buyers are still not willing to pay whatever the

seller wants. They are very informed and set ideals for what they can pay."

*-Tracey McCleary, office  
manager, Re/Max Precision,  
Newington*

**Q. How are current mortgage rates impacting buying and selling?**

A. "The current rates are still amazing, but the fact is they are rising, and if someone is planning on getting into a house, now is the time to do it. As long as the buyer gets a standard, non-variable rate, even though taxes and other expenses will go up over time, your interest rate won't. The rates still are so low that paying down the principle of a loan is much easier and makes owning a home affordable."

*-Tracey McCleary, office  
manager, Re/Max Precision,  
Newington* **WL**

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## LIVING Spaces



# A place for everything and everything in its place

Compiled by Lynn Woike

**C**reate order from chaos throughout your house with these helpful organizing tips from local experts.

### Boxes

"For organization, I like boxes and bins, but the important thing is for the contents to be 'transparent.' I don't mean that the box or bin needs to be clear, only that labeling is crucial. If you have small children who you'd like to encourage to pick up after themselves, placing pictures of the items contained in the bins can help. And before you think about throwing everything in the bins just to clean up the house, purge first. Do you really need 10 cell phone chargers?"  
—Monica Katzen, owner, *Mind My Life*, Simsbury



### Suitcases

"Vintage suitcases are great for storage – they can be stacked and used as an end table or nightstand next to a sofa or bed. They can hold anything from remote controls and magazines to sheets and towels for guests." —Arlene Carr, owner, *Revival Home*, West Hartford

### Baskets

"Easily retrieve items stored in your pantry, refrigerator, craft closet or playroom with these grab-and-go baskets. You can purchase them at most big box stores and they come in different colors and sizes."  
—Sarah Soboleski, owner, *Classically Organized*, Glastonbury



clothing, stuffed animals, bedding – and the 20-quart ones for light bulbs, extension cords, candles, paper goods and other items."  
—Donna Finocchiaro, owner, *Organized East of the River*, Marlborough

### Clear bins

"My favorite products are clear Sterilize bins with white lids. They come in many sizes, are affordable, stack well and fit portable shelving units typically used in basements, garages and closets. I place content labels on one long and one short side for easy viewing. Use the large 56-quart bins for soft goods –



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## LIVING Spaces



### Door Rack

"Organizers that go over or behind doors are a boon for people with limited space. These often overlooked areas can be used to store almost anything, including shoes, pantry items, cleaning supplies and craft materials." –*Heather Feinsinger, owner, Re-Style Your Closets LLC, Simsbury*

### Lockers

"Putting lockers by your daily entrance gives everyone in the family a place to store items that come and go regularly – from coats and gloves to backpacks and sporting equipment. Durable and fun, lockers come in a variety of styles that can also help organize mud rooms, game rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms and garages." –*Paul Calafiore, owner, DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, Newington*



### Hooks

"Garage storage space is limited for most of us and it usually houses odd-shaped tools as well. To maximize the space, use walls effectively. Hooks are a perfect way to get things off the floor."

–*Mike Pendergast, owner, Great Closets of New England, Simsbury*

### Chinese boxes

"Everything from paper clips, cotton balls and tea to sewing supplies can be neatly organized in a collection of colorful antique Chinese cloisonne boxes. They look great on a desk or dresser."

–*Arlene Carr, owner, Revival Home, West Hartford.*  
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# Spring cleaning

Make the most of this annual ritual

Compiled by Lynn Woike

**A**rea experts offer tricks of the trade when tackling spring cleaning.

“Break down spring cleaning projects into tasks that can be managed in the time you have available. It could be a room at a time, or even one drawer or one shelf a day. This method prevents you from becoming overwhelmed and allows you to better focus on a particular task.” *Heather Feinsinger, owner, Re-Style Your Closets LLC, Simsbury*

“Assemble a cleaning basket or bucket with all the supplies you’ll need. Carry it from room to room to tackle jobs both big and small so you’ll have all your gear in one handy container.” *Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

“The products you use can help with the cleaning process. I really love straight alcohol on mirrors because of the residue build-up from hair products and makeup. It also works well on glass shower door soap scum

with baking soda and a Magic Eraser. Just be careful that there is not a sealant on the shower door and do not get any on brass framing or wood.” *Sandy Wheeler of Morawski Cleaning LLC, West Simsbury*





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## LIVING Spaces

"If you haven't worn it in a year, toss it. Also, toss it if you don't absolutely love it. Don't try to convince yourself you're going to wear that bridesmaid dress again when you hated wearing it the first time."

*Mike Pendergast, owner, Great Closets of New England, Simsbury*

"Pick one corner in the room as your starting point and move in a circular path from there. Always start on high surfaces and work your way down to the floor." *Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

"Devise a cleaning schedule once the bulk of the spring cleaning is done so it won't seem so daunting next year: mud-room on Mondays, toilets and tubs on Tuesdays, workspace on Wednesdays, etc." *Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

"Toss expired foods and spices in the pantry. Sanitize the refrigerator and freezer. Reorganize the pantry, cupboards, refrigerator and freezer, rotating soon-to-expire ingredients to the front. Sanitize fridge and freezer." *Emily Weissberg, owner, Organize Me! By Emily Weissberg, Avon*

"Groove to some upbeat music while you work. A few good tunes will keep you moving and boost your spirits. The 'Frozen' movie theme song 'Let it Go' comes to mind as you release the dust and clutter from your home." *Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

"Identify a spot for donations. As you begin your spring cleaning, it's always good to purge any unwanted or unloved items you find. It helps to have a box

or bag to corral these things to take to your local charity. Continue to use the spot throughout the year so you make it a habit to place your castoffs in this designated location."

*Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

"When handling large projects such as a garage, choose a corner and focus only on that one area. Discard the true garbage. Remove unwanted items that have some value and can be sold or donated and place them elsewhere. Lastly, create a better system to organize and store what's left." *Donna Finocchiaro, owner, Organized East of the River, Marlborough* **WL**

*Next month we suggest how and where to get rid of items you no longer want or need.*



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Rob Rosa  
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Lisa Martin  
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Angela Aiello Sousa  
860.305.5585



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**MIDDLETOWN** \$489,900  
GEOTHERMAL 3800 square feet of living space!! 1ST flr MB. Covered deck, gym, office, media/entertainment room.  
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**NEWINGTON** \$299,900  
RANCH style. Conveniently located. 55+ community. Master Bdrm with walk-in closet. Fireplaced living room. Wood flrs. Sunroom.  
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**WETHERSFIELD** \$199,900  
COMING SOON!!! 2 bdrm ranch. Large living/dining room. Gas heat Central Air. Wood floors, newer windows. Nice patio.  
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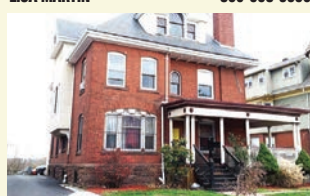
**MIDDLETOWN** \$159,900  
JUST LISTED Not your average condo. Spectacular river views. ALL redone with high end finishes. 2 bdrm. A few steps to everything.  
**ANGELA SOUSA** 860-305-5585



**NEWLY BUILT** \$103,000  
Ranch style CONDO. 1st floor. 2 bedroom. Gas Heat C/Air. Energy Star rated. Garage. Other designs available.  
**DIANE MCADAMS** 860-538-6006



**CORNFIELD POINT** \$409,000  
Short walk to sandy beach! Nicely updated. Kitchen with granite. Great entertaining space. Also a lease/purchase.  
**WARREN ROBERTS** 860-989-5488



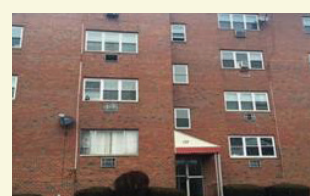
**HARTFORD** \$249,900  
Gorgeous brick building in a high traffic - high exposure area. 25 parking spaces. Currently being used as an office space.  
**ROB ROSA** 860-558-2122



**NEWINGTON** \$242,500  
WOW! From top to bottom! Tastefully done, including granite counters, special cabinetry, new baths, 1st flr MB. Family room with French doors to deck.  
**JEANNE BAILEY** 860-665-1094



**SUFFIELD** \$144,950  
BRIGHT and airy end unit faces grass & trees. Very well Maintained with newer appliances. 2 Bdrms, 1.5 baths. Fireplace. Heated basement. C/vac.  
**ANN GIANGRAVE** 860-539-4674



**NEW BRITAIN** \$49,900  
1st flr 2 bdrm condo. Heat, hot water included in low condo fee. Newer windows, hardwood flrs. Extra storage in basement. Wash machine is included in sale.  
**MARIA TURCZANIK** 860-573-5326



**E. HARTFORD** \$193,900  
ENJOYABLE living in this beautiful updated 55+ end-unit home. This is a premium lot. Great room with a dramatic cathedral. Gas Fireplace. 1st flr Master Bedroom Suite.  
**LESLIE COOK** 860-985-1766



**HARTFORD** \$144,000  
NEW CONSTRUCTION! 3 BEDROOM townhouse, open floor plan, kitchen with walk-in closet & center isle. GARAGE! Energy star-rated. Gas heat and C/Air. Private patio.  
**JOSEPH MARRERO II** 860-306-1235



**E. HARTFORD** \$167,900  
RELAXING home. Kitchen breakfast bar with open space from kitchen to dining room. Hardwood FLRS. Fireplace. Finished family room with built in bar. Oversized 2 car gar.  
**JILL SERRA** 203-305-6336



**BRISTOL** \$135,900  
WELL KEPT! Kitchen with beautiful tile back splash, floor, newer appliances and cabinets. Large FP living room. Finished lower level. C/Air. 2 tiered deck. Beautiful landscaped yard.  
**SAL MORELLO** 860-989-7178



**WETHERSFIELD** \$6/SQ FT  
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**Wethersfield \$320,000**  
422 Griswold Road  
4-5 BR Col/Cape in the Highest School district. Flexible floor plan, hardwood floors, 2 car attached garage. Unlimited potential.



**Wethersfield \$387,500**  
5 Thornbush Road  
Always admired Ranch!! Custom size windows and flexible floor plan makes this a true GEM! In-ground pool, fenced in yard, quality throughout!



**Wethersfield \$239,900**  
18 Stillwold Drive  
Move right in! Remodeled kitchen, updated bathrooms, 3BRs, and 2 car garage. Close to schools and shopping.



**Rocky Hill \$574,900**  
55 Murphy Drive  
Custom built Energy-Star Colonial located in sought after west-end. Open floor plan, 9 foot ceilings. First floor MB suite. Eat-in kitchen opens to family room w/gas fireplace. Formal DR & LR.



**Wethersfield \$318,000**  
62 Back Lane  
Colonial w/3 Bdrms & 2 1/2 baths, renovated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors! Enclosed porch & finished lower level. Gas, baseboard heat & CAIR.



**Wethersfield \$544,900**  
40 Bobwhite Hill  
Exceptional Property! Elegant design Ranch features front columns, two story foyer, 9' ceilings, and Palladium windows.



**Wethersfield \$179,900**  
49 Timber Trail  
Adorable and Affordable!  
Three bedrooms, living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, porch and attached garage.



**Wethersfield \$339,900**  
58 Gooseberry Hill  
Spacious 4 Bedroom  
Jefferson Split in desirable location. Open front porch, vinyl sided, CAIR and newer roof and windows.



**Wethersfield \$279,900**  
187 Clovercrest Road  
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**Wethersfield - \$389,000**  
Pristine Dutch Colonial on .75 Acre Lot! Huge Sunken Bonus Room with Vaulted Ceiling! Awesome Private Yard w/Beautiful Natural Preserve Gives a Quiet Country Feel! Granite Kitchen, Master Suite, Hardwood Floors, New Windows, 2 Car Garage!



**Wethersfield - \$359,900**  
Fabulous 2300 SE Perfect for Entertaining! Outdoor Living Space Includes 1000 SF Incl 2 Tiered Deck, Pergola, 500 SF Stone Patio, Barn, Stone Fire Pit, Fenced Yard! Granite Kitchen, New Granite Baths, Gas Heat, Wood Stove, Hardwood Floors, 2 Car Garage!



**Wethersfield - \$349,900**  
Location! Location! Location! Custom Built 4 Bed, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial! New Buderus Gas Boiler, Updated Elect, 1st Floor FR with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Freshly Painted, 2 Car Garage, Highest School District! Walking trails that Lead to the Pond at Mill Woods & the Park!



**Wethersfield - \$349,900**  
Incredible Price for this Spacious 13 Room, 5 Bed, 3 Full Bath Colonial w/Loads of Character!! Freshly Painted, Gleaming Hardwood Floors, Updated Granite Kitchen, 1st Floor Laundry, Gorgeous Landscaping & Lovely Perennial Gardens, New Vinyl Siding, New Architectural Roof, 3 Car Garage!



**Wethersfield - \$239,900**  
Fabulous Updated Ranch in Move In Condition! Newly Remodeled Kitchen & Bath, New Roof, Vinyl Siding, Central Air, Gas Baseboard Heat, Living Room with Gas F/p, Freshly Painted, First Floor Laundry, Attached Garage, Breezeway & Deck, Across from Millwoods Park, Driveway on South Pembroke!



**Rocky Hill - \$204,900**  
Charming Sun filled Colonial, Gorgeous Remodeled Kitchen w/New Cabinets, Breakfast Nook & Corian Counters! Beautiful New Bath Claw Foot Soaking Tub, Corner Shower & Vanity!! 2nd Flr Laundry, Hardwd Floors, New Roof & New Windows, New High Efficiency Pellet Stove, 200 Amp Elec, Front Porch!



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**WETHERSFIELD - NEW LISTING!** Move in ready ranch abutting Wethersfield Country Club. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, gas heat, central air. With fully finished basement, more than 3000sqft of living space. **\$349,900**

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**860-463-0426**

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**WETHERSFIELD \$559,000**  
Spectacular views of the reservoir!  
Many updates plus finished lower level!



**ROCKY HILL \$197,900**  
Large townhouse with eat-in kitchen,  
finished lower level & garage!



**MIDDLETOWN \$316,000**  
Enjoy the quiet side of town in  
this lovely Colonial built in 2000!



**BLOOMFIELD \$229,900**  
Immaculate & spacious 4-bedroom  
Colonial with beautiful oak floors!



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2.5 baths, 2 car garage  
**\$324,900**



**9 rooms, remodeled kitchen,**  
cul-de-sac st, Highcrest School  
**\$324,900**



**Perfect house for entertaining!**  
4+ car garage.  
**\$324,900**



**Custom built 4000+ sf, quality**  
throughout on cul-de-sac!  
**\$524,900**



**Rare Opportunity! Beautiful NEW**  
construction in the Historic District  
**\$325,000**



**Stately 4 BR Col, 2.5 bths,**  
wideflr boards, on the COVE!  
**\$435,000**



**10 Room Colonial, XXL**  
garage, ON THE GREEN!  
**\$299,900**



**7 rooms, remodeled kitchen,**  
baths, c/air, 2 car garage  
**\$274,900**



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Call Lisa for information on additional listings



# People notes



**Scott Augustine**, rotating structures fellow and discipline chief, Compression Systems, was named one of five distinguished engineers of the year by Pratt & Whitney and the Hartford chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.



**Lynne Kirby** won the Chairman's Club Award at United Bank. She is vice president and mortgage loan officer. She was last year's Chairman's Club Champion.



**Gioia Zack** joined Leadership Greater Hartford's board of directors.



**Devon Smith** and **Kyle Klavins**, both seniors at Wethersfield High School, signed letters of intent to play football at the collegiate level. Devon will attend Wagner College to play free safety and Kyle will attend Southern Connecticut University and be a wide receiver.

**Kristen Linnartz, Andrew Aronne, William Schmid and Timothy Linnartz** were named to the dean's list at Springfield College.

**Alvi Aliaj, Demi Arroyo, Matthew Barry, Michael Barry, Stephanie Beers, Angela Bell, Bianca Bobadilla, Stephanie Boccuzzi, Heather Ciarletto, Christina Dolgoruck, Olivia Fenton, Leaja Johnson, Michael Gomez-Hixson, Daniel Lemieux, Sarah Leonard, Ethan Morris, Erjana Radomi, Alexander Ranniello, Scott Roberts, Alexandra Saharek and Isaac Vieira** were named to the dean's list at the University of Hartford.

**Shayla Bailey, Madeline Fulton and Analissa Mandile** were named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.

**Iraklis Mantziaris** was named to the dean's list at Bentley University.

**Nicholas Intino** was named to the dean's list in the School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University.

**Carly Nixon and Rachel Sharp** were named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware.

**Marc Howes** was named to the dean's list at Marist College.

**Frank Bruno, Joshua DellaFera and Jacqueline Kendrick** were named to the dean's list at Assumption College.

**Jessica Gray** was named to the dean's list at Endicott College.

**William Martin** was named to the dean's list at Tufts University.

**Matthew Marottolo** captured the top prize at the first chess tournament at Kingswood Oxford Middle School. Adam Ovian was also among

the top players.

**Patrick Mozzicato** was named to the dean's list at Ohio State University.

**Adam Weinstein** was named to the dean's list at the University of Connecticut.

**Damary Baez, Tashia Davis, Jonas Diaz, Rosely Gonzalez and Diana Zayerz** were named to the dean's list at Springfield College.

**Jacob Zapatka** was named to the dean's list at Nichols College.

**Whitney Norris** earned a master of science degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Noah Thulen** was named to the dean's list at Castleton University.

**Maura Brennan** was named to the



dean's list at Western New England University.

**Nicole Cormier, Danielle Cousineau, Lauren DiLoreto, Kaneen Gomez-Hixson, Odette Morin** and **Patricia Salcedo** were named to the dean's list at the University of Saint Joseph.

**Faith Burnett** was named to the president's list at Husson University.

**Kyle MacRae** was named to the dean's list at Bentley University.

**Christa Allard, Madelyne Colon, Anne Fern, Dustin Ganci, Kelsie Harrison, Heidi Jackson, Jaclyn O'Keefe, Karen Orefice, Lissette Rivera, Taylor Ryan, Amber Sprague, Rongwei Tan, Samantha Taylor, Janet Tedone, Anthony Uccello, Sean Whetten, Grayson Yacovone, Jonathan Gwara, Debbie Plourde** and **Christina Sorano** were named to the dean's list at Goodwin College.

**Maeve Walsh** is participating in an off-campus study abroad program in London, England, through St. Lawrence University.

**David Marottolo**, a student at Kingswood Oxford School, was named to the Connecticut Music Educators Association's All State Festival.

**John O'Brien** was named to the dean's list in the Ithaca College School of Communications.

**Carling Walsh** was named to the dean's list at St. Lawrence University.



**Jack Wolf** was named All-New England by the National Soccer Coaches Association. He is a student at Kingswood Oxford School and has committed to play soccer at Wesleyan University next year.

**Katharine Grottke** was named to the dean's list at Clemson University.

**Mia Bell, Emma Monroe, Olivia Porriello, Maggie Silbo, Katherine Brough and Haley Lombardo** were named to first honors at Mercy High School. **Taylor Fanelli, Gabriella St. Pierre, Emily Tylki, Molly Codeanne, Grace Marino, Nicole Roode, Mary Alistair Vidallon, Yining**

**"Ivy" Liang and Annmarie Rotatori** earned high honors. **Lindsey Vieweg, Rachel Lombardi and Mario Marena** were named to the dean's list at Roger Williams University.

**Madelyne Colon, Anne Fern, Karen Orefice, Lissette Rivera, Amber Sprague and Janet Tedone** were named to the president's list at Goodwin College.

**Luke Mills, Joanna Williams and John Wolf** were inducted into the Cum Laude Society at Kingswood Oxford School.

**Catherine Davis, Alison Gilbert, Caitlin Gray, Jordan Manchester, Alexandra Schroll, Nicole Varca** and **Patrick Vittner** were named to the Emmanuel College dean's list. **WL**



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# Events *spotlight*

## Beer & Wine Tasting

March 31, 7-9 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

30 Greenfield St.

860-563-0027

The Wethersfield Volunteer Firefighter's Association, in conjunction with Steve Leon and Wine Cellars 4 in Farmington, presents this 11th annual event. Proceeds will benefit the WVFA Scholarship Fund and 10 percent of all sales will go to the WFVA. Tickets are \$25 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests will receive a commemorative wine glass. Order tickets in advance, this event usually sells out.

## Tags & Treasures Sale

April 2-3

Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum

211 Main St.

860-529-0612 or [webb-deane-stevens.org](http://webb-deane-stevens.org)

Collectors of vintage oddities, artifacts and antiques are invited to rummage for collectibles. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Webb Barn. Single-day admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. This bi-annual event features hundreds of household items including small furniture, vintage pieces and historic estate items from some of Connecticut's

oldest families. Other treasures are glass, sterling silver, china, linens, fine jewelry and books.

## Comedy Night

April 2, 7 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

30 Greenfield St.

860-550-3726 or [wethersfield-hockeyalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:wethersfield-hockeyalumni@yahoo.com)

Come enjoy a night of laughter sponsored by Wethersfield High School Alumni Hockey. Bring your own bottle; munchies will be provided.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$125 for

a table of six. All profits will go directly to the WHS Hockey/Coogan Scholarship Fund. Mail checks to Arnie Mason, 644 Prospect St., Wethersfield, CT 06109

## Through My Eyes

April 4, 7 p.m.

Keeney Memorial Cultural Center

200 Main St.

860-529-7656 or

[wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

Experience the American Revolution as told by Salvatore Tarantino.



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Wethersfield became the birthplace of the U.S. Cavalry when the Second Continental Light Dragoons were organized here in December 1776 under Col. Elisha Sheldon. Tarantino is the captain of the federally reestablished military unit and nonprofit educational organization, the Second Continental Light Dragoons Sheldon's Horse.

### Whist

April 7, 6 p.m.  
Pitkin Community Center  
30 Greenfield St.  
860-986-9707

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club presents a night of Whist including refreshments, door prizes and raffles. Admission is \$6 and funds raised will go toward scholarships and charitable donations. The club is a nonprofit community service organization.

### Chamber Business Expo

April 7, 4-7 p.m.  
Keeney Memorial Cultural Center  
200 Main St.  
wethersfield@sbcglobal.net

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce presents its first Business Expo featuring local businesses, light refreshments and informational seminars every 30 minutes. Topics include credit card processing and chip technology, 401k plans for all size businesses, business insurance, marketing and social media. The town will provide free information for people who are looking to start up a business.

### Taste of Wethersfield

April 9, 7 p.m.  
Keeney Memorial Cultural Center  
200 Main St.  
860-529-7656 or  
wethersfieldhistory.org  
This 11th annual event raises money for the Wethersfield Historical Society. Numerous town and area restaurants will be on hand offering up samples of their cuisine. Admission is \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Because alcoholic beverages will be served, admittance is restricted to those age 21 and older.

### Spring Classic Car Show

April 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Department of Labor parking lot  
200 Folly Brook Blvd.  
wethersfield@sbcglobal.net  
This annual car show returns. Sponsored by the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, it typically attracts dozens of pristinely preserved antique and classic cars from days gone by, everything from the Ford Model T to Corvette Stingray. Spectator admission is free; car owners pay \$10 to participate.

### Italian/American Concert

April 23, 7 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Church parish hall  
300 Main St.  
860-529-6825  
This musical evening is presented by Sal Basile playing guitar and singing favorite Italian-American songs. Admission is \$10 at the door to bene-

fit Outreach Committee projects including: Family Support Center at Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford; St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children and Holy Trinity School, Haiti; and Casa Limiar Orphanage, Brazil.

### Good 'Ole Fishing Derby

April 30, 8 a.m. to noon  
Spring Street Pond  
860-721-2952  
The town Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with

Connecticut Outfitters, the Metropolitan District Commission, UNICO and the Wethersfield Game Club, will sponsor this annual fishing derby for Wethersfield children in grades K-6. Bring your own fishing pole and bait or purchase bait on site. Loaner poles will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is free, but advance registration is requested. This can be done at town hall, Connecticut Outfitters or on the Parks and Recreation website. Prizes will be awarded. **WL**



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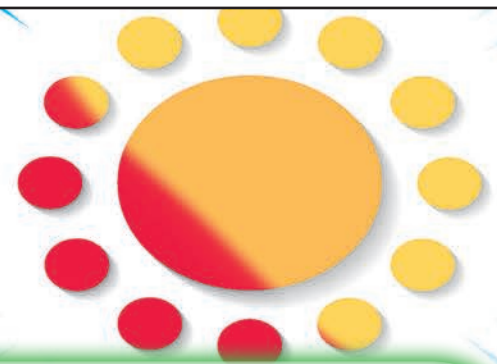
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# April

# calendar



Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## 1

**Drop-in Playtime/Storytime**, 10 a.m. to noon, for children of all ages and their caregivers, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org), also April 8, 15, 22 and 29

## 2

**Fandom Fun**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with children's activities based on Minion Mania, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org/kids](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org/kids), also April 9, 16, 23 and 30

## 2

**Spring Chicken Dinner**, 4:30-7 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 10, 860-529-2025

## 4

**Cavalry Capt. Salvatore Tarantino "Through My Eyes," a view of the American Revolution as seen by a cavalryman**, 7 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., \$5 admission, free to Wethersfield Historical Society members, 860-529-7656 or [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

## 5

**Time to Talk conversation group for new English language speakers**, 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org), also April 19 and 26

## 9

**150 Prospect Coffeehouse**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or [tanjam@comcast.net](mailto:tanjam@comcast.net)

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**10 Resurrection**

**Concert**, 2 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-529-2025

**15 Family Fiesta Night,**

7 p.m., CenterPoint Community Church, 840 Silas Deane Highway, 860-571-8415

**19 Pizza and Pages,**

6:30 p.m., for grades 4-6, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2801 or wethersfieldlibrary.org/kids

**21 Imperial Russian**

**Fabergé Eggs**, 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**22 Spring Musical**

**"Working,"** 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield High School auditorium, \$5 admission

**23 Italian/American**

**Concert**, 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church parish hall, 300 Main St., \$10 admission, 860-529-6825

**26 GFWC Newington/**

**Wethersfield Woman's Club,** 7 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., Newington, 860-666-4371



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## PETS

# Sit! Stay! Socialize!

Learning how to improve your pet's behavior

by Alicia B. Smith  
Staff Writer



Dog trainer Ben Garson of Dogology in Canton said that training your dog "results in having a deeper relationship with them."

### Looking to adopt? Here is a list of area rescues

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Farmington Valley  
Bnkrescue.com  
(Dogs only)

**Dog Star Rescue,**  
Farmington Valley  
Dogstarrescue.org  
Facebook.com/  
dogstar  
(Dogs only)

**Mary's Kitty Korner,**  
Granby  
860-379-4141  
maryskittykorner.org  
(Cats only)

**Animal Friends  
of Connecticut,**  
West Hartford  
860-827-0381  
afocinc.org  
(Dogs and Cats)

**West Hartford  
Animal Control**  
860-570-8818

**Connecticut  
Humane Society**  
701 Russell Rd.  
Newington, CT  
800-452-0114  
cthumane.org  
(Variety of animals)

**W**hen it comes to training a dog, it is the human who needs the lessons. When a dog is properly trained and socialized it can benefit not only the pet, but the owner's and animal's health, too.

"If you want a dog to respect you, you need to learn their language and communicate with them," Ben Garson, dog trainer at Dogology in Canton, said.

He and his staff of trainers are training dogs one human at a time.

"I love dogs, and I love working with them, but a lot of what I do is working with people," he said of his business that offers group and individual training sessions at the shop or at home.

A common thing Garson runs into with pet owners is the idea that they know what they are doing in terms of training their dog because they had other dogs before.

"They think, I've had dogs all my life, you feed it, you take it for a walk," Garson said. "Sometimes the most dangerous things are things we don't know or assume we know. Really investigating and educating yourself on how to communicate with them is huge."

Garson said common mistakes people make when training their dog is to be too forceful and using a louder voice than is necessary. Things such as the way a person stands, moves or the energy in which a dog owner corrects their pet all impact whether a dog will be successfully trained.

Garson said the best way to make training a success is to connect with their dog the way they connect with other dogs, with body language being a huge component. "Those things come more natural to a dog," he said.

When the once adorable puppy grows into an older, less active senior dog, the pet's behavior may change as they develop age-related issues, such as joint pain or illness.

Garson said that older dogs have developed a pattern of behavior that they stick with, much the way a person does. He likened it to a person flipping a switch to turn on a light even though the power is out; the behavior has become a habit.

One of the things that pet owners should keep in mind when working with an older dog is that changing their behavior can be stressful for the pet, and the dog should not feel pressured, that is why it might take more time to retrain a dog than to start fresh with a puppy.

"It's not impossible," Garson assured.

What older dogs need is a person they can trust and respect and who will gently lead them into proper behavior.

"A lot of people confuse freedom with happiness,



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## PETS

they think a dog who has no structure, no boundaries or rules is a happy dog," Garson said. "But, really, nowhere in life does that exist, kids raised without structure and boundaries tend to be miserable adults."

This is true for dogs as well.

"Socialization is one of the most crucial parts of raising any dog," Christian Suter, owner of Candlewick Kennels in Glastonbury said. "It's something owners should really make a point to work on. If you are having trouble with it, seek someone out."

Suter defined socialization as "being socialized with everything in their environment, this means cars, trains, trucks, all sorts of people, sounds, different smells, other dogs, anything they can encounter in its environment."

Suter said socializing a puppy should begin immediately when a puppy comes home to its new family, usually around 8 weeks old.

To do so simply means introducing the puppy to anything in and around the house, including people and other pets.

"What you want to do is, if the puppy shows any fearfulness or uncertainty, you encourage it to overcome that," Suter said.

While starting immediately with a puppy is ideal, older dogs can also be socialized to feel better in their environment.

"You don't want to overwhelm the older dog. If it's fearful of something – other dogs, running cars, you want to help that dog and encourage this dog to be more confident in that situation. When older dogs fear something, they often had a negative experience in the past," Suter said.

Candlewick Kennels offers doggy day care, which, Suter said, can be an excellent way to help socialize dogs. Puppies are put in a separate area where they are first introduced to other young dogs about the same size.

"I think it's important for an owner to understand how a dog learns," Suter said. "If you understand that, it helps you tremendously in socializing and getting to know your dog and working with your dog."

"I am a big proponent of socialization and training," Dr. Monica Dijanic, medical director at Beaver Brook Animal Hospital in Wethersfield, said.

She has heard statistics ranging from 30 to 65 percent of dogs are surrendered to shelters because of behavioral issues. It does not have to be this way.

For starters, training your pet, Dijanic said, helps to establish a human-animal bond and it prevents the pet owner from becoming frustrated. It also helps keep pets healthy.

"If you have an untrained dog that eats your Thanksgiving turkey, you will not only have an upset family but foreign body issues, GI upset; there are health ramifications," Dijanic said. Additionally, if a dog is trained



## PETS

Courtesy Photo



Leash training is one of many areas that can benefit a dog as well as offering socialization with other animals and people.

to come at their name it can keep them safe if they should get out of the house or off leash.

“The big one people talk about is the human-animal bond you will be bonding with a much more well-behaved dog or cat,” Dijanic said. Issues such as a cat urinating outside of its litter box or a dog that constantly jumps on people can be prevented with proper training.

Dijanic recommends pet owners sign up for dog training classes.

“I’ve been in the veterinarian field for over 25 years,” she said. “When I get a new dog I do training classes. It’s a nice refresher and bonding time, something you and your pet can do together.”

Classes, even for those who have attended before, help to introduce new techniques that may be unfamiliar to pet owners.

While dogs are the mostcommon pet to benefit from training, Dijanic assured that cats, too, can benefit.

Typically, they will train themselves to use a litter box, but pet owners can help train them to not scratch furniture by having a scratching post available or using pheromones to help keep cats calmer. **WL**

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# Slice of LIFE

Photos by Lisa Brisson



The Pitkin Community Center was once again filled with the aroma of garlic bread, meatballs and macaroni as the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO International held its 37th Annual Famous Macaroni Dinner. Hundreds turned out to help out the Italian-American organization's many charitable endeavors.

## UNICO Annual Famous Macaroni Dinner

**1.** Mayor Paul Montinieri, a UNICO member, makes sure the garlic bread is seasoned just right. **2.** Manning the pasta kettles every year since the beginning is Charlie Nardi. Ten pounds of Barilla macaroni cooks in 10-12 minutes, guaranteed. **3.** The Macaroni Cooking Brigade kept busy all morning and afternoon in a makeshift cooking tent located to the rear of the Pitkin Community Center. **4.** Nicholas Follacchio serves up a spicy meatball or two. **5.** Serena Console and Teresa Capalbo sell UNICO T-shirts as another fund-raising project. **6.** Grace Marino, 16, whose father Al is a UNICO member, passes out the cannolis. **7.** Luciana and Tony Sabatini, married for 56 years, have enjoyed many UNICO macaroni dinners. **8.** Donna Diana waits for the rest of her family while holding 1 ½-year-old grandson Logan Bube. **9.** Patricia Follacchio has fun with her daughter Alicia Neville and grandson Tristian, **10.** Andrew Bielawiec, 6, enjoys his dinner. **11.** Joe Pandolfe calls out for more raffle tickets to be bought.





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## Your thoughts:

This month we asked residents: "With spring just around the corner, what are you most looking forward to about warmer weather? Here are some of their responses."



**"Being able to just sit outside."**

—Norman Ramsey



**"Everything. It's always better to be out than being stuck in the house."**

—Carol Zampini, left, with Chloe Bennett



**"Going to the beach."**

—Carlos Betanzos and Andrea Gombosh



# News roundup

## Corpus Christi graduate returns from Peace Corps

**1.** Corpus Christi School alumna Lauren Hoisl, a recent Peace Corps volunteer in Mozambique, spoke Feb. 25 at an assembly to students in grades 3-8 about her life-changing experiences. After graduating from Seton Hall University, she joined the Peace Corps in September 2013 and began her 27-month assignment.

Hoisl established a library in the town of Chissano and students from Corpus Christi raised more than \$1,500 through their 2015 Dr. Seuss Day to purchase books for that library. She shared photos of the library and thanked the students for the 800 books that were purchased with their donation.

## Clean up for spring

The town is sponsoring a Spring Yard Clean-Up Day from 8 a.m. to

3:45 p.m. April 2 at the transfer station, 100 Marsh St. Residents can dispose of brush and branches, up to half a cubic yard, at no charge. Proof of Wethersfield residency will be required.

## Learning about weather

WVIT-TV 30 meteorologist Bob Maxon paid a recent visit to Hanmer School. He spoke to all of the fifth-graders about the weather and what it's like to be a television weatherman.

Erin Morris and her class made a welcome banner that was hanging in the foyer and students, from left, Jacob Carlson, Wil Bankowski, Nicole Partridge and Cora Tinker served as school ambassadors to welcome Maxon to Hanmer.

## See the new auditorium

Wethersfield High School's brand



new auditorium, a tangible example of the three-year renovation project, opens in April. The public is invited to experience the state-of-the-art facility at a one-night encore performance of the WHS musical "Working" at 7:30 p.m. April 22. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

## Guerrera runs again

State Rep. Antonio "Tony" Guerrera, who represents Rocky Hill and portions of Newington and Wethersfield, will seek a ninth term in the 29th Assembly District this fall. The veteran Democrat is chairman of the House Transportation

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Committee. He was elected mayor of Rocky Hill in 1999 and then won his first legislative race in 2001. Guerrero said he plans to protect state revenues earmarked for rebuilding roads, rail lines and bridges, as well as modernizing air and port facilities.

### Apply for scholarships

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce will award a total of \$2,000 in scholarships this year. Applications can be found on the chamber website at [wethersfield-chamber.com](http://wethersfield-chamber.com). The submission deadline is March 31.

To be considered, a student must be a Wethersfield resident

graduating in May or June 2016, have maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA in grades 10-12, and plans to further his or her education at a vocational, technical, or trade school and/or a two-year or four-year university or college.

### Keeney Kids will explore history

**2.** The Wethersfield Historical Society presents its Keeney Kids Spring History Program April 12-13. Children in grades 1-6 will participate in historical activities, tours, stories and games at the Wethersfield Museum in the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and sur-

rounding historic sites. The children are divided into two age groups: grades 1-3 and grades 4-6. Program dates and themes are "Coming to America" on April 12 and "Adventures in Architecture" on April 13. Programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.

The program fee for one day is \$20 for society members or \$25 for non-members; the fee for two days is \$40 for society members and \$50 for non-members. For additional information visit [wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org) or call Allison Golomb at 860-529-7161. Enrollment will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Comfort through pillows

**3.** Members of the GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club recently gathered to make comfort pillows for cancer patients at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. Alicia Gadzinski, left, oncology nurse navigator, graciously accepted 82 pillows from members Maureen Reale, Pat Mahoney, Ann Whitford and Diane Rickenbacker.

The hospital is having a Mammogram Day April 1. For additional information call 860-224-5011.

### Easter at First Church

The First Church of Christ in Wethersfield marks Maundy Thursday on March 24 with a Tenebrae/Communion Service at 6:30 p.m. It will include Holy Communion, a meditation by Tessa Beauregard and Tenebrae (dimming of the lights).

A Good Friday service is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 25. There will be a meditation by Wayne Luman. A Good Friday Memorial Concert happens at 7 p.m. Admission to the concert is a free-will offering.

First Church celebrates Easter Sunday on March 27 with services at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. An Easter Sunrise Service on Cemetery Hill behind the church starts at 6 a.m., followed by a full Easter Breakfast in the Fireside Room at 6:30.

The suggested breakfast donation is \$4 per person or \$10 per family. Children 5 and under eat free. Breakfast reservations are required and can be made by calling 860-529-1575. First Church is located at 250 Main St. **WL**



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# Business notes

**D**r. Christopher LaVoie of **Family Chiropractic of Wethersfield** was honored by the American Institute of Chiropractors as one of its 10 best chiropractors for client satisfaction in Connecticut.

Managing Partner Joel Johnson of **Johnson Brunetti**, a retirement planning firm, has published his latest book, "The 2016 Guide to Maximizing Your Retirement Income." The purpose of the book is to give people a simple way to look at their retirement and address what most senior citizens or pre-retirees are concerned about, which is having enough money to live the rest of their lives with a lifestyle that they desire.

**WeddingWire**, a global online wedding marketplace, named Nightingale Events of Wethersfield a winner of the 2016 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards for wedding planning and coordination.

Gregory Clancy has joined **Weichert, Realtors – The Zubretsky Group. WL**



Ambur Fork was named associate of the year at the Wethersfield Shopping Center Panera Bread café/bakery. The award was given by the Howley Bread Group, owner and operator of 28 Panera locations in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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## Editorial

### Enough with the name-calling

**W**e remain embroiled in the midst of a presidential election campaign that feels like it started a decade ago. Primaries and caucuses are being held all over the country as the political parties try to whittle down the field to their final candidates.

Recent campaign events, particularly those involving the Donald Trump campaign, have become rowdy. Protesters are becoming more forceful and supporters and security are tossing them out.

There have been physical altercations and strong words thrown both ways.

The fact that some of the other candidates are speaking out about how all of the name calling and emotion that is part and parcel of modern American politics needs to be tempered is good. But, they must have been asleep for the past two or three decades.

Such obnoxious behavior is nothing new. Television and

radio personalities pander to it every day. As much as the media and the candidates claim that they want to talk about the issues, the truth is that they just love to stir the pot and encourage people to react with their emotions rather than with their intellect.

That is a disservice to everyone. It creates a powerful us against them mentality and demonizes the other side of the debate. It creates closed minds and stubborn resistance to listening to any ideas other than our own.

The United States of America is supposed to be the worldwide model of free speech. But there is little respect for that portion of the First Amendment to the Constitution, at least when it comes to politics.

To our readers who harbor strong liberal political ideals – conservatives are not fascists. They are fellow citizens who have a different political philosophy and opinion.

To our readers who harbor

strong conservative political ideals – liberals are not communists.

They are fellow citizens who have a different political philosophy and opinion.

There is nothing wrong with being passionate about our political beliefs, but that passion needs to have a limit. Otherwise there is no hope for civil discourse and such discourse is a key ingredient of democracy.

When Liberal Party candidate Justin Trudeau was elected prime minister of Canada this past October, he asked his followers to tone down the rhetoric against their Conservative opponents. He reminded them that they are all citizens of the same country and should treat each other as neighbors, not as enemies.

Can you imagine any of the current U.S. presidential candidates making such a comment after he or she wins the presidency in November? That person would likely be excoriated by his or her party.

It's all about winning and forcing one's agenda down the throats of the losers. That's a shame. We can, and should, be better than that. **WL**

## Letter

### New after-school program takes off

To the Editor:

Thank you to all who worked so diligently to bring to life the Keane Foundation's newest venture, the elementary school Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Program.

On March 3, an overview of the new program was proposed to diverse community leadership in town. It was a grand night for the Keane Foundation and for the children of Wethersfield.

After much collaboration and hard work, the Keane Foundation is ready to consistently support a variety of after-school enrichment programs at all Wethersfield elementary schools in a safe and fun environment in which

youth can come together to participate in athletic, academic and social programs with the support and guidance of caring adults.

The Keane on Kids Stakeholder Social was an opportunity for our community to collaborate. Speakers presented to interested dignitaries, the mayor and Town Council members, superintendent of schools and Board of Education members, elementary school principals, the town manager, town employees, elementary school PTO board members, teachers and parents.

The Keane Foundation believes this program will benefit children in all Wethersfield elementary schools.

The current Keane on Kids After School Programs will be transitioning next fall into each of the elementary schools as Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Program. This will eliminate the need for costly busing of students after school and can reach many more students overall.

The Keane Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has committed to funding the new Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Programs so long as donations and fundraisers continue to successfully fund the nonprofit. Thank you to all in the community who have made these enrichment programs possible.

*Judy Keane*

*President*

*Richard M. Keane*  
*Foundation*

# wethersfield LIFE

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 Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m.  
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 April 3, 10 a.m. to 4  
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 Sunday (\$3 per bag)  
 \$5 Admission.

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 SALE** - West Hartford  
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 April 8, 7-9pm. Admis-  
 sion \$1.00. Saturday  
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 Sale - Free Admission.  
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BY MARK DIXON  
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



## Winter 2015-16, an interesting one!

**I**n the more than 110 years of record keeping, the average temperature for this winter of 35.1° places it in 2nd place for warmest. This, despite 2 days in February with low temperatures at -12° at Windsor Locks! The winter of 2001-02 remains at the top of the list with an average temperature of 35.2°

Other records for the season: 31 days with a high temperature of at least 50° (previously: 26 days during the winter of 1932-33); also 9 days with a high of at least 60° (previously: 7 days during the winter of 1975-76 and that of 1953-54).

The warm weather this winter can be attributed,

in large part, to a very strong El Nino. December was the warmest on record at an amazing 11.7° above average! January was 4.1° warmer than average, February came in at 2.3° above.

During the season, Windsor Locks had 11.08" of precipitation (rain, plus the water equivalent of snow and ice), 1.52" above

average. Total snowfall was only 17.1", 13.6" below average (most of the snow occurred during the month of February with 14.2"). This will not be the least snowy winter on record – that honor still goes to the winter of 1936-37 when only 14.7" of snow was measured for Greater Hartford. [WL](#)

BRIAN AMBROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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